

ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

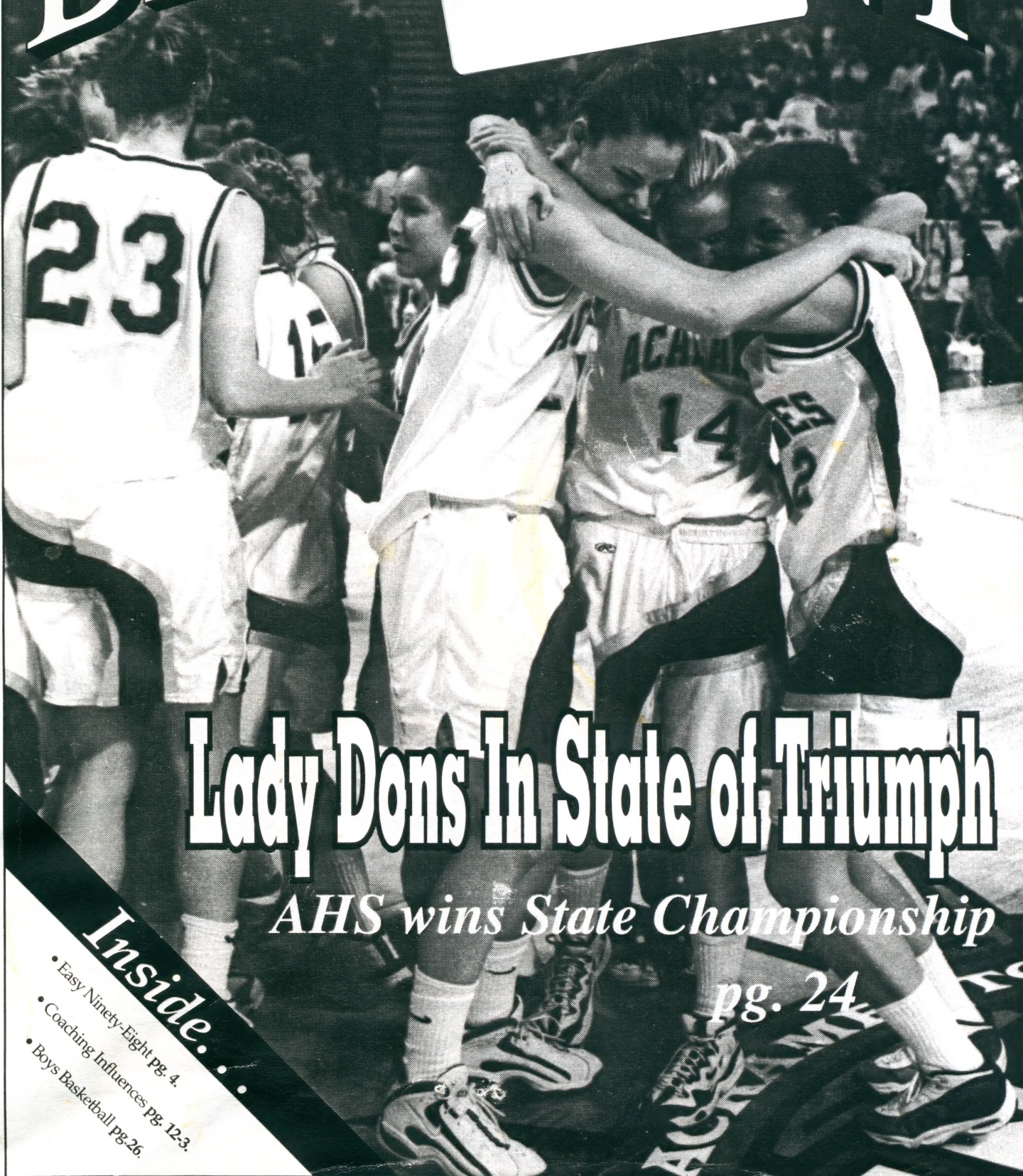
March 26, 1999 HILL RD.

ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

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BLUEPRINT



Lady Dons In State of Triumph

AHS wins State Championship

pg. 24

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Blueprint Photo by Cathy McPhee

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ON THE COVER: The Acalanes Varsity Basketball Team celebrates their victory at the State Championship in Sacramento.

Photo of the Issue



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team runs triumphantly onto the court after defeating Harvard-Westlake in the recent State Championships.

Blueprint '98-'99

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ACALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

INSIDE



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COACHING

AHS Students Detest STAR Exam

By Peter Deng
Staff Writer

California's standardized STAR test did not meet its goal of developing a complete picture of academic achievement, does not reflect Acalanes curriculum, does not make good use of school time, and did not provide meaningful data on academic abilities, Acalanes High School teachers and students said in a recent poll.

In a poll of 170 Acalanes United States History students, 32% of the students said they took the STAR test seriously, 15% said they tried their best and 17% said they tried very hard. But less than 15% believe that the test is worth the time and money taxpayers paid. In fact, 86% felt that the STAR test was not worth the \$2,000 of tax money it cost for Acalanes to give the test. In addition, 48% believe the STAR test is a "total waste of school time".

"I couldn't picture a more worthless test if I tried," said Junior Mike Ward, "It has absolutely no effect on anything, so it will not receive the genuine effort needed for a test to succeed."

Added Junior Damon Peters, "Instead of using tax money for the [STAR] test, they should be investing it in education."

Of the US History students, 11% indicated that they did not try on the STAR test and 5% indicated that they deliberately marked the wrong answers. This move was unwise, warned Principal Keith Schmidt and Counselor Sally Porter.

Despite popular belief, the Star test must be taken seriously. Sophomores are required to take the STAR test because the Reading Comprehension section must be passed in order to graduate. The STAR test has been incorporat-

ed into the English Competency test, a graduation requirement, for two years now, according to Porter.

"We can consider a person competent in English, and competent enough to graduate, if they score the fiftieth percentile or better on the STAR Reading test," said Porter, who is also the head of STAR testing at Acalanes.

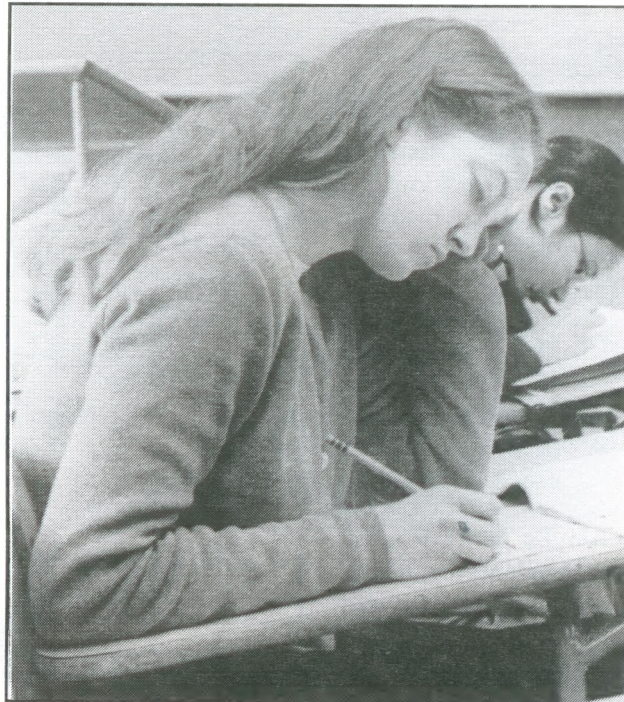
If Sophomores do not pass the Reading Comprehension section of the STAR test, they must take another test to prove their English competency.

Freshman Phil Peyron believes it would be better if the STAR test "could go directly to jobs or colleges. If I could say, 'I got this on the STAR test', it would be more worth while."

Principal Keith Schmidt said however, "There is an indirect benefit [for the students] ...Ultimately, [the STAR] performances are reported by schools... and [good scores] make our transcript look good". Schmidt recognizes that nothing drastic will happen to the students who choose not to perform their best, but good scores on the standardized test will benefit all Acalanes students.

"If we're a school that performs well, the grades on the transcript will reflect well," said Schmidt.

The results also go into the students' cumulative records, which follow the student through out high school, but the STAR test is not currently a part of the



Acalanes juniors Emily Senturia and Rebecca Schneider spent the mornings of 3 school days in this same classroom taking the Star test.

students' transcripts submitted to colleges, said Porter.

Porter said there is also a deeper value to the STAR which students do not seem to be aware of. "The results are sent home, so you have an idea as to how you're performing compared to other kids in the country who took that same test."

According to the poll, only 40% of those polled actually did a cursory reading of last year's test results. Of the 40% who looked at the score sheet from last year, 18% worked on the areas where improvement was needed.

The California State Board of Education says that the results of the STAR test will be used to develop a "complete pic
Continued on page 11

EASY '98

Easy Program More Difficult than SASI

By Ann Bordetsky

Staff Writer

More than ever the counseling office is thinking Easy come, Easy go, wishing their new computer program would do the latter.

The district office forced the Acalanes administration to switch to a new computer program, the Easy 98, which has frustrated Acalanes counselors and may jeopardize their efficiency and ability to complete tasks.

The program previously used by the school was SASI, according to District Business Manager Larry Larson. The counseling office used this program to hold records and student schedules, print out grades and attendance reports, and make transcripts. Two years ago the District received notice that the DOS-based SASI they had been using for over a decade would no longer be supported by its maker, forcing the District to switch to the newly designed, WINDOWS-based Easy 98.

According to Acalanes Technologist Bill Orell, who is familiar with SASI and Easy, "[The programs] are like night and day."

However, Sam Defeo of Eagle Software, the company which produced both programs, said that "for someone who is well acquainted with the old SASI program the differences are only visual, and it's relatively easy to switch to Easy 98."

The change to Easy 98 creates several difficulties for counselors and students. One of the possible major effects on students is the new formatting of school transcripts. According to Counseling Office Registrar, Meredith Mooers, "the new Easy 98 tran-

scripts poorly represent the Acalanes Union High School District to colleges and parents because the formatting is not nearly as nice as the old [transcript] and it doesn't contain as much information."

According to Head Counselor, Bob Gangi, the printer and scanner, which are

tended the meeting. "That was one of the reasons we were sold on Easy," said Gangi.

Some students have already been affected by the new program. According to Computer Editor of AKLAN, Suzanne Chan, the counseling office could not give AKLAN a list of Acalanes student names on disk be-

cause "they don't know how to work [the program] yet." Chan added that "this will be a big hassle because all names have to be retyped into our computer."

The switch to Easy is not only slowing down AKLAN but also the counselors. According to Mooers, the use of WINDOWS and Easy 98 is a much slower process than SASI. "We are not as efficient," said Mooers. "It adds an extra couple of hours of work to every day."

While combating the effects of the switch to Easy 98, the counseling office is also concerned about being inadequately prepared for Easy 98. "This counseling office is not adequately prepared for the program in terms of skills and training," said Gangi.

When the District told AHS it would switch to Easy, the counseling office did not receive an up-to-date written manual for the program for about a month. According to Gangi, the manual they did

receive from the District was for Easy 97. However, District Business Manager Larry Larson said, "The written [1997] manual goes with the current [1998] program."

Until last week, an up-to-date manual could only be accessed through the Internet, according to Gangi, which he believes "[did] not help us in the training process or in dealing with immediate problems."

According to Larson, the District is responsive to counselor concerns about training. "We have told all the schools, 'As you



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

key for grades and attendance, glitch with the program, and the program itself lacks the key features which caused the district to buy into Easy 98. "It's a major disappointment and a major problem", said Mooers.

The program lacks a feature for master scheduling and cannot integrate alternates for student-selected classes. Next year "students may have to wait longer to get the right schedules," said Mooers.

The District was promised these features during a meeting with an Easy 98 representative, according to Gangi, who at-

Continued on page 11

VANDALISM

Recent Vandalism Causes Stink at AHS

By Jeni Wolowic
Staff Writer

A decapitated pigeon was found in front of teacher Ramsey Thomas's room, a smoke bomb went off in teacher Mary Carmicheals's room, and several windows were found smashed by garbage cans during the week of March 8, the latest incidents of vandalism on the Acalanes campus.

Thomas said the pigeon was most likely half eaten by a dog or a rat, since "there are several rats on campus," and animals usually like to eat the head first.

Candie, the janitor who found the pigeon, said, "it was definitely an evil act," since there are very few, if any pigeons on campus.

During the same week, a smoke bomb was set off in Carmicheal's room driving her classes out of the classroom for several hours because of the smell.

Associate Principal Luanne Bruce said they didn't know anything about other than, "I have (the bomb) in my office and we know a student did it."

Vice Principal Jerry Bucci said Acalanes usually has "about 10 to 12 vandalism incidents on campus per year," including broken windows, graffiti, and senior pranks.

Principal Kieth Schmidt said he doesn't believe the amount of vandalism has increased, "but happens infre-

quently since I've been here."

Schmidt also said vandalism usually occurs over the weekend, since "our campus is wide open all weekend long and is somewhat susceptible to being picked on."

Schmidt said, "the senior pranks usually occurred toward the end of the year," and are obviously senior pranks, such as the glue in all the locks on campus which occurred earlier this year. "Sometimes we get some vandalism during homecoming week, one class towards another" and messaged are scribbled with chalk. "These are considered vandalism because of the message they send."

Sometimes vandals are caught by messages they leave, they're seen by someone or are silly enough to have their car in the parking lot and a lic-

ense plate is taken, Schmidt said.

When those who committed the vandalism are caught they are required to pay for the damages, have a criminal report written against them and have to go to court, and are usually suspended by the school.

"We did have an incident this year when one of our own students was caught vandalizing another school and we suspended them, even though it wasn't our campus," Schmidt said.

Bucci said the majority of vandalism incidents are not reported to the police but are dealt with by the district's maintenance team.

"Acalanes has a pretty low rate of vandalism, which is a testament that people pretty well take care of the school," Schmidt said.



Blueprint Illustration / Thomas Vile

TEACHER RECRUITING

Administrators in Search of Qualified Teachers

By Ryan Rein
Staff Writer

In order to assure that the level of teaching in the Acalanes School District remains high next year, recruiters will be attending recruitment fairs and visiting colleges and universities in search of prospective teachers.

The school principals and Dr. Johanna VanderMolen, the Associate Superintendent of curriculum, recruit teachers for any open teaching positions for the following school year. It is a year-round process that is done very carefully, according to VanderMolen.

In order to keep Acalanes at the top of the stack in education the teachers must be very carefully selected, said VanderMolen. Acalanes uses a variety of methods to find the very best educators in the state.

The district looks for teachers at recruitment fairs, in which people who are interested in becoming teachers come and apply for positions. According to VanderMolen, recruitment fairs are a very good way to find teachers.

The Acalanes District has some advantages over the other districts in finding teachers because of its good reputation. Schmidt said, "In terms of salary, it's competitive with most districts, and in terms of working conditions, it's better than most districts."

People who attend the recruitment fairs in hope of getting a teaching position go through a long application process. VanderMolen explained, "They send in their application packet, with their letters of resume, their college work, the classes they took, and so on. Then we look to see how good it is, and then we call them in for interview."

Another way that the Acalanes District finds teachers is by word of mouth. The teachers can recommend someone who they know is a good teacher. VanderMolen said, "We get a lot of help from the teachers. They sometimes know someone or they know how to find someone."

In order to make sure that only the best teachers are chosen to teach in the district, the teachers are ranked during interviews to pick the best candidate.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Panelists wait to field questions from the few seniors who attended the mandatory senior classes meeting on drugs and alcohol.

Few Seniors at Senior Meeting

By James Sherwood
Staff Writer

A majority of seniors failed to attend a mandatory meeting designed to inform students on drugs and alcohol on March 18.

Though the assembly was mandatory for all seniors, 164 of the 299 students did not sign in at the door. Not all of those students cut, but a vast majority did.

The assembly consisted of three speakers: UC Berkeley Senior, Lindsay Mercer, psychotherapist Dominic D'Ambrosio, and Gayle Stevens who works for the Lafayette Police Department. The three members took turns discussing their opinions, and experiences with drugs and alcohol.

D'Ambrosio told students, "(alcohol) takes away the things that really matter."

Stevens said concerning alcohol, "You have to decide right now what you want to do about it."

Acalanes' school nurse, Ms. Nells who organized the event said, "I was actually

happy with the turn out. I think the meeting did get the message across."

The meeting took place in the morning while the other three grades finished STAR testing. Many seniors that are 18 chose sleep in or in some cases go to Tahoe.

Senior Scott Seibert, who did not attend said, "I wasn't interested in the drug education. I just wanted to go snowboarding."

Senior Betsy Schrey who did attend the assembly said, "I wouldn't suggest one in the future though because it didn't reach the people it should have reached." And senior Joe Falaschi who also chose to call in sick said, "It's not as big of a problem as the parents think it is."

While some students deny that there is a problem, others believe that local methods of prevention have had little affect.

Senior Matt Signorella said, "The kids that drink are going to drink no matter what. You can't prevent it."

FIFTH DANCE

Fifth Dance Idea Still Spinning

By Hiro Kagiya
Staff Writer

The proposed fifth dance is still in limbo with the students and dance committee still unsure of the final decision of the administration.

The fate of the fifth dance lies in the hands of the administration that seem to be reluctant to give the dance to the students. Even with several other schools in the area having a fifth dance and the approval of the fifth dance by the school board principal Keith Schmidt has said the school is allotted only four inter-class dances a year at Acalanes, excluding the junior and senior prom.

Many students were outraged that an idea for a fifth dance had been deep sixed by the administration. One student who felt strongly about the dance being canceled was sophomore Jackie Kamrath who said, "I think it is terrible that there is not going to be a fifth dance because the dances are a place where students can see friends and see people that you might not know." Another angry student was sophomore Jon Wurzel who said, "... the dances are probably one of the only thing students want to do on a Friday night rather than getting a keg or two and getting drunk out of their minds."

With the support of the student body for a fifth dance but the administration still apprehensive this issue of a fifth dance is one that will die hard.

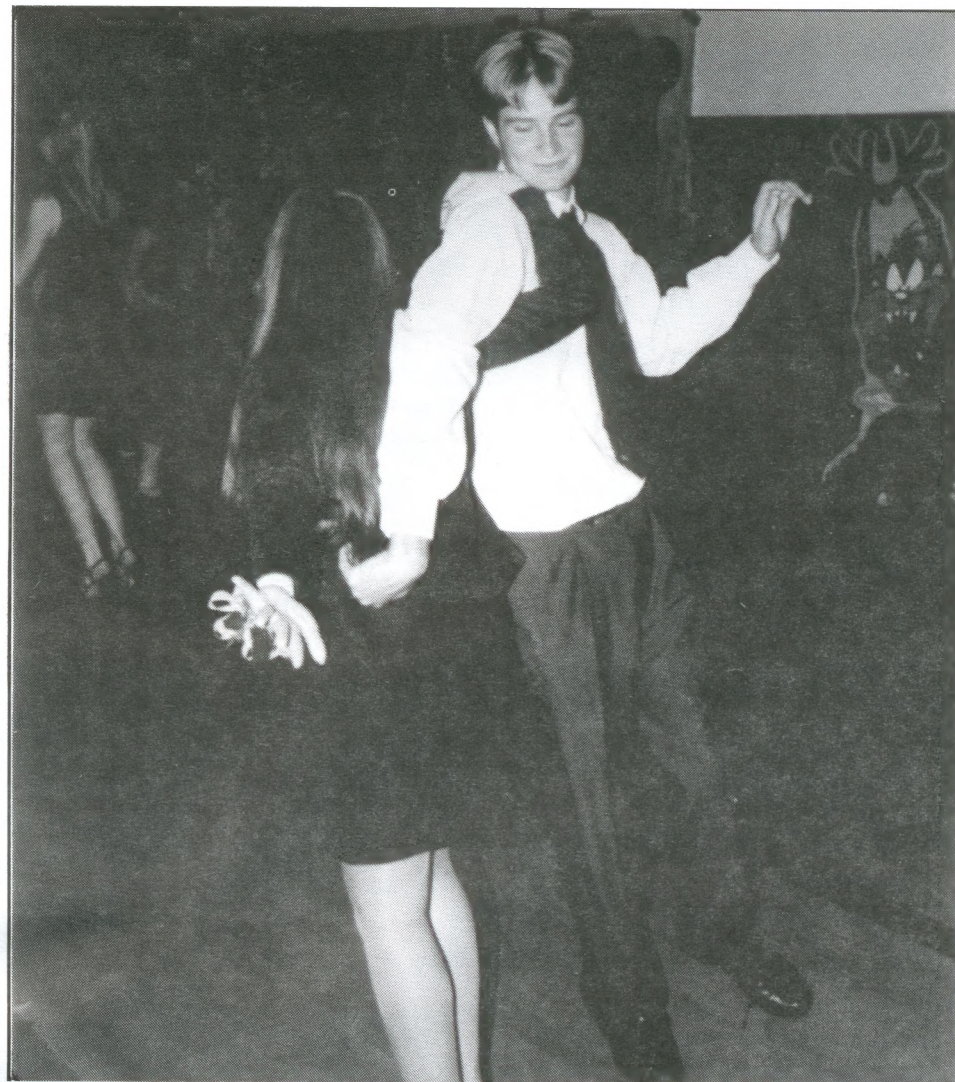
DIGITAL HIGH SCHOOL

By Damon Diederich
Staff Writer

New changes are occurring at Acalanes on the heels of a Digital High School grant of about \$385,800.

Although only AHS and Las Lomas were the only AUHSD schools picked through lottery to receive technology grants from the state, the money will be divided among all five schools in the district. Miramonte, Campolindo, and Del Oro expect to receive additional money within the next two years, which will also be used at all five schools.

The school administration will use the



Two underclassmen enjoy swing dancing at Winter Ball. This dance was the last formal dance of the year for lowerclassmen.

money to implement standards of computer proficiency for all Acalanes staff members. All staff members will be expected to reach level one proficiency (knowledge of computers and programs sufficient to increase teacher efficiency) in one year. Staff members will be expected to reach level two proficiency (integration of computers into curriculum) within five years.

The end purpose of these standards, said Principal Keith Schmidt, is to allow teachers to become skilled in technology and its use and to pass the benefits of technological awareness on to students.

Acalanes staff members will learn how to utilize computers and technology on staff development days, which about 24% of the grant will be used to pay for. Another 6.25% of the grant will go into software and the remaining 69.75% will go into computers, printers, scanners and other specialized equipment.

Any technology taught in schools also contributes to helping students get the advanced jobs awaiting them upon graduation. For now, the administrators and staff are working to make Acalanes a true Digital High School.

COLOR GUARD

Drill Team Introduced At Acalanes

By Blake Koelmel
Staff Writer

Ten Acalanes students dressed in uniform march around in the quad in a militaristic fashion, carrying replicas of rifles and swords, as they proudly salute and raise the American flag.

This is one of the scenes sophomore Roy Chong envisioned when he created The Acalanes High School Drill Team and Color Guard club. The club, designed to instill more respect for the American flag in Acalanes students, is based on a militaristic program called JROTC, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, which Chong hopes to bring to our school.

"I'd say that my ultimate goal is to set up a JROTC program at Acalanes itself which helps develop your leadership capabilities, gives you discipline, and all sorts of other things students need to learn at this early age," said Chong.

Chong says he was disappointed in the lack of respect Acalanes students showed for the flag at Acalanes football games, and it was this disappointment that inspired him to create the club.

At the football games people don't stand up for the American flag; they don't take off their hats. I think once they see others showing their patriotic spirit that it will slap them across the face and say "hey, we should be doing this."

However, as junior Charlie Massie

commented, no matter how optimistic Chong may be, all anyone has to do is go to an Acalanes Rally or even read some Blueprint articles, where every corporation in America is somehow run by murderers, to see that there is still very little school or national spirit.

And as junior Mike Kasper said, "More than likely it's just going to be a target for ridicule among upper-classmen."

Even so, as unrealistic as some may

view changing the minds of 1400 students who have been used to years of no spirit whatsoever, Chong interviews like he is still forging ahead with guns blazing in the challenge to make his dream a reality.

However, with the club already nearly a month old, only ten members large, and having no official duties as of now, (a janitor or members of the Leadership class raise the flag presently), Chong hasn't seemed to pursue the administrative logistics of beginning a club. In fact, Associate Principal Luanne Bruce, who is ultimately in charge of managing club affairs wasn't even aware that the Acalanes Drill Team and Color Guard club was in existence.

Even Leadership Advisor Rod Keillor, who is more directly in charge of managing club affairs and is arguably the most familiar with Acalanes clubs, still knew little about the Color Guard club or their real purpose.

Keillor did say, however, that he "doesn't have any objections on the club being a school sponsored, [if Chong went through the proper process], but, [he] doesn't know exactly what they want to do at school."

At any rate, Chong is one of many with a dream to influence life at Acalanes High School. Whether or not there is an increase in the number of students that stand and remove their hats at football games, however, remains yet to be seen.



An Acalanes janitor takes down the American flag located at the front of the school. The Acalanes Drill Team is dedicated to teaching respect of the flag.

Blueprint Illustration/Cathy McPhee

PARALLEL IDEAS

Parallel Ideas and Humanities Class Cancelled

By Tim Shieh

Staff Writer

LASF Parallel Ideas and Humanities class was cancelled last month due to a lack of student participation, depriving students of background information in areas not covered by the regular curriculum.

The class suffered from a decline in student participation following the New Year. "Sometimes," said Candace Livingston, the organizer of the class, "there were no people coming."

The class was created three years ago to "shadow along the AP (European History) class," said Ramsay Thomas, the AP European History Instructor. Last year, Thomas offered extra credit to his AP students that went to the class and said, "there seemed to be 12-15 people (who went)."

This year, "(the class) was not I kept at a high point in my consciousness," said Thomas, who did not offer extra credit to his classes this year.

Sophomore Kathleen Walsh said, "If Mr. Thomas offered us extra credit, I would have gone (to the class)."

However, Junior Kristen Kamrath, who went to the class last year, said, "the extra credit was so nominal that it wasn't really a factor." Nevertheless, Walsh said, "more people would have gone with the extra incentive. I think people would have tried even harder to make time to go."

Both Walsh and Constantouros said, "the class lacked good publicity." Constantouros said, "If my friends had told me about (the class), I would have gone, but they didn't."

Thomas said, "(this year) I was not as aware of what was going on (in the class), not that that was anybody's fault."

Bob Kelso, the head of LASF, said, "(LASF) tried to get teachers to mention (the class) to their students. Candace went to the teachers (and) put notes in their boxes...(she also) went to department meetings to talk with teachers... We did the best we could to get the word out."

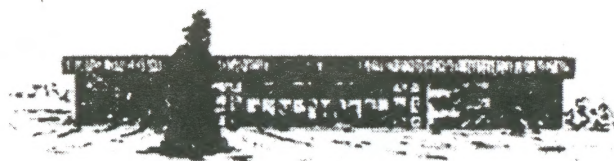
Kelso said that, "coordinating the class with students' extracurricular activities was difficult. I think that it is a reason for the failure of the class."



Seniors Phillip Talata, Rob Panacci, Derek Clay, Ilana Collins and Megan Long participate in one of the Parallel Ideas classes

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DIVERSITY DAY

Speaker Meets Diverse Reactions

By Jeff Price
Staff Writer

Despite past controversy, Acalanes' Diversity Day on Mar. 9 which included a guest speaker and lunchtime club activities, came off with little controversy and acclaim.

Diversity Day, which grew from last year's controversial One America Week, featured Richard Santana, a motivational speaker who at a special student body assembly, and lunchtime activities put on by Acalanes clubs.

Last year's One America Week, the program Diversity Day grew from, featured a week of special classroom curricula, guest speakers on social and cultural issues, and a motivational speaker. One America Week drew controversy from its alleged left-leaning bent that resulted in parent protesters and a running battle fought in the Letters to the Editor section of local newspapers.

This year's Diversity Day was significantly tamer. It began with a special student body assembly that was to feature speaker Richard Santana. After an apology by Student Body President Morgan Miles, who announced that Santana had been "unable to make it today," Miles introduced the "replacement" speaker, Mr. Chocolate. Chocolate, a Latino man dressed like a gang member and speaking in a thick Mexican accent, began to discuss problems teenagers faced, including gangs, sex, and substance use.

After the speech, clubs set up booths and displays about diversity issues and sold food in the Quad as fundraisers. Groups like Amnesty International and the Pacific Rim Club sold food and handed out literature about current club interests.

In a move that sparked controversy from students and teachers, Chocolate asked the audience to shout out racial stereotypes that they had encountered. As the audience shouted suggestions, Chocolate walked around the room, nodding in approval and making comments to some of the students. After

the exercise, Chocolate discussed why stereotypes form, and how the attitudes of the audience reflected these stereotypes.

The speech concluded with a surprising turn as Chocolate removed his sunglasses, trench coat, and bandana to reveal Richard Santana, the real speaker, who then spoke about his personal experiences and how he overcame the challenges in his life.

Santana, who attended Roosevelt High School in Fresno, a school so torn with ethnic strife that it was nicknamed "the killing fields", also discussed his membership and leadership in a Latino gang. After discussing his gang experiences, he told of a teacher that had "taken an interest in him" and allowed him to find his true merit.

He went on to explain how he rose from poverty to attend Harvard and receive his Master's Degree in Education, then found his "true purpose," and turned his life to teaching others about racism and hatred, becoming what he calls a "critical educator." "My job is to try and educate and make people think about what's out there," Santana says.

Santana admits that his journey has been hard, and he still has problems with his own hate. He used to harbor hate for white people, "because they were the ones that kept me down." Although he has risen above that hatred, he still experiences it from time to time. However, he forces himself to "learn to cope" and to deal with his hatred.



Richard Santana, who gave most of his speech dressed in gang attire, shows his true self to Acalanes students on Diversity Day.

Although many students, like senior Chris Blazick, found Santana "informative and educational", some felt that he was biased against the student body. Junior Brian Kennelly felt that "the message was valid, but the presentation was offensive. [Santana] treated the audience under the assumption that we all were racist."

Kennelly also felt that the assembly was of limited use to Acalanes students. "I think that someone who preaches their message like El Chocolate does has no hope of getting his message across."

However, Blazick felt the speaker would make some positive impact, and felt that Santana was a person to learn from. "The Acalanes Student Body should take note of many of [Santana's] ideals, Blazick said. "It seems that they're lacking in many people these days."

SPILL-OVERS

Continued from page 3

-ture of academic achievement". The scores will also be used to improve curriculum in California.

Teachers and 87% of the students polled believe STAR testing does not serve its purpose as stated by the State Board of Education.

"[From the STAR test] We discover school districts have kids that don't know basic things. We knew that already," stated AP Euro and AP Government teacher Ramsey Thomas, "In the science section, for example, [students] will say, 'I know some of this stuff, but I didn't learn it from my teachers this year!'... This is not a measure of how school districts are doing. It's a measure of general knowledge kids have picked up."

Students feel that because the test was not aligned with Acalanes' curriculum, it cannot accurately develop a picture of academic achievement, but attempts have been made to more closely align the test with curriculum, said Porter. This year's STAR test, as opposed to last year's test, tried to cover the same material students had covered.

The Acalanes High School District does not have a ninth grade science program, but, "There were students getting tested on [material]... they may not have

even had," said Biology teacher Lori Tewksbury.

In the district, Freshmen take world history, Juniors take US History, and Seniors take Government and Economy.

"What's on the STAR test?" asked Ramsey Thomas, "There's some of everything, including Geography, which we don't teach at all. That's absurd."

While material untaught by Acalanes teachers remained on this year's test, the test makers, Harcourt Brace & Company, tried to challenge students more by testing closer to their highest ability. The math section is now divided into separate Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II tests.

Some students believe the better-tailored test was an improvement, even a challenge.

"I felt that all the other tests were rather easy, but the math test exceeded my expectations," said Sophomore and Honors Algebra II student John Wurzel.

Most Juniors felt that the STAR test was not more connected to Acalanes curriculum. All Juniors took the same STAR test; there was no tailoring to the individuals as there was in the math section taken by Freshman and Sophomores. Only 10% believe this year's STAR was more in touch with Acalanes

curriculum than last year's test.

Not only were there flaws in curriculum relevance, there were flaws in the questions themselves.

One social science question, for example, read, "Which of the following would bind people in a culture the most? A)Common economic interests B)Language C)Common political party"

"You can certainly make a strong argument that common economic interests will bind you together more than language, but of course they want the answer 'Language'," said Thomas, "Many of these are such opinionated questions."

When asked if next year's test will have fixes to the timing and question flaws, Linda Lowens, the spokeswoman for STAR testing stated the flaws will not be fixed.

"That test is a standardized test, it's nationally normed," said Lowens referring to the timing inequalities on the STAR test.

Responding to the flawed questions Thomas found, Lowens defended the STAR test, "Maybe [the unclear questions are] based on the instruction that has gone on at your school... I wouldn't anticipate that the questions would be changed."

"Easy 1998" continued from page 4
tell us where you need training, we will bring it to you." According to Larson and Principal Keith Schmidt, that training was brought to counselors through program preview sessions with an Easy 98 representative, the most recent of which was last month.

Mooers said that unlike the other training sessions, the most recent training session "was effective."

Due to feeling poorly trained, the counseling office is displeased with the District's timing, which forces counselors to switch to the unfamiliar Easy 98 during the school year. While performing their daily tasks and making sure grades and attendance are out on time, the coun-

sors are additionally responsible for learning how to use (Easy). Gangi believes "this is not the time to make the transition. We are dealing with too many things at one time."

According to Gangi the switch to Easy 98 came as a complete surprise. Easy 98 was to be piloted by Campolindo for the entire 1998-1999 school year before the rest of the district adopted it, in order to work out glitches in the program. "All of a sudden we were told that [we] would start second semester", said Gangi, "the district office never explained why".

Larson explained that Acalanes and the District had negotiated previous deadlines for installing the program, but Acalanes kept pushing them back. "We have been plan-

ning this for some time...If we don't do it before the [class] scheduling for next year is completed, we'll lose another year...and the company no longer supports the old program," said Larson.

According to Larson and Schmidt, the decision to switch to Easy 98 this February was negotiated by the Administrative Council, which includes Acalanes and district officials. "We've been listening to [Acalanes] all along, saying 'do what you need to do, and we'll support you on it'", said Larson.

Gangi said "the counseling office had no say in the district's decision to implement the program right now". Larson declined to say which side in the council made the final decision.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT FEATURE

INSIDE.....



PE Exclusive
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COACHING

Parents or Coaches: Who's Calling the Shots?

By Heather Klurfeld and Julie Zorn
Staff Writer and Co-Editor-in-Chief

When it comes to calling the plays at Acalanes, coaches have the final word. When it comes to calling the shots as to who coaches and who doesn't, it is often the parents who get the last point.

Acting as a force often unseen by the coaches, parents group together and complain to the administration to remove a coach. Their complaints typically focus on unequal playing time, team record, coaching style, and personality issues.

Track coach Manny Meyers feels that in general "parents in this school have entirely too much power."

Former football coach Gordon Finn said that while he was coaching at Acalanes, he valued parent involvement in the program but he didn't "think that parents should be active participants in the hiring and firing of a coach."

Jim Changaris, whose position as girls' volleyball coach was reopened for application next year, is the most recent case of parent influence over coaching personnel decisions. After the girls' volleyball season last fall, Changaris received a positive evaluation, according to Changaris and athletic Director Dave Girsch. Yet, after Principal Keith Schmidt received a complaint letter regarding his coaching style signed by several parents, Changaris' position was reopened.

After the girls on the team were given a general survey about his performance, he was brought into a meeting with the admin-

istration. He was then told that his position would be reopened for applications. Changaris said that he was never given a chance to address the parents who complained about his coaching style. Feeling that parents unjustly requested his removal, said that "coaches have less rights than prisoners."

Parent of an athlete Amy Forte said that parents do not confront the coaches because they don't want the coach to get defensive.

which was unnecessary and made the job less enjoyable....I had to handle complaints that were unfounded," said Finn.

Most complaints that parents make, though, are not directed to the coaches but rather to the administration, said Finn.

Usually, the complaints go directly to the principal, and sometimes end up in the district office.

"It is a district issue, not something that parents should get involved in," said former football coach Roger Mc-Masters.

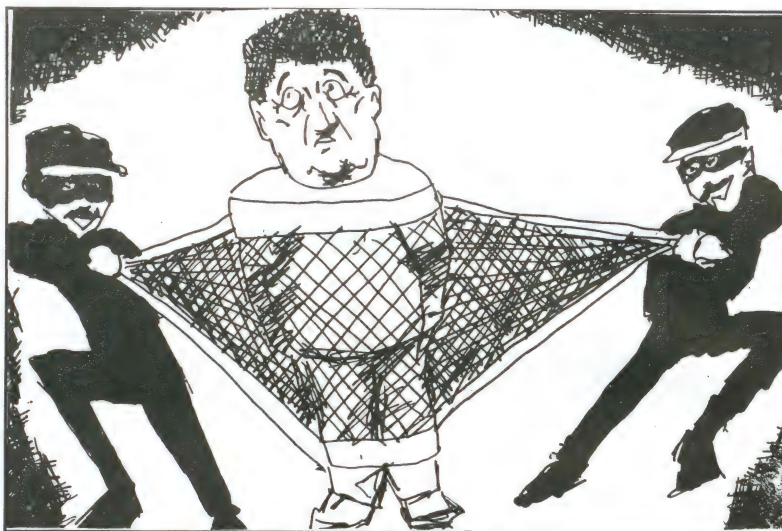
Schmidt feels "there is an appropriate place for parents to have a voice... (but) ultimately it is the decision of the district."

Parent's Club President Hilma Jones also said that the parents should have input. "We expect (the coaches) to make decisions, but we also expect them to be open to concerns from both parents and students... the administration and the parents need to work as a team" she said.

Forte also supports parent evaluation of coaches. "Parents can be equals (with the administration) in that we can tell what criteria we want in the coach...I think that (parents) should have input," said Forte.

She believes that parent involvement is more fair because if the administration were solely in charge of the dismissal of coaches, they would side with the coach because of loyalty to faculty.

Parents who do approach the administration usually do so as a group and face to face meetings between the par



Former Campolindo basketball coach Barry Hart was removed mid season in the late 1980's also as the result of a parent complaint. "Parents complained....they took it to the superintendent, and he fired me," said Hart. After Hart was fired, there was a hearing, but the removal still stood.

Hart did not go so far as Changaris, but said that "coaches don't have many rights in terms of laws. They are hired and fired with need."

Finn was removed as the Acalanes football coach at the end of a season because he "was getting a lot of flack from the parents

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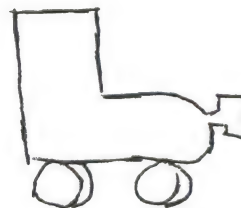
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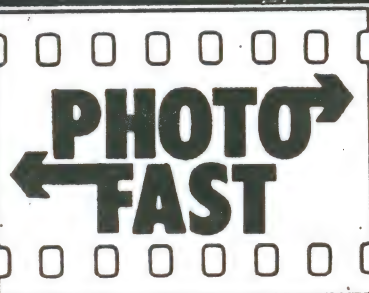
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COACHING

ties rarely take place.

"If (parents) come forward to the administration as a group, it will be more impacting," said Finn.

According to Fisher, complaints from a group are important because the complaint resonates in a louder voice.

Forte agrees that a group effort is more effective than just one parent complaining. "If it is not one person feeling like their child is being picked on...as long as it is a group input, I feel that the parents should be able to voice their opinions."

According to Schmidt, parent complaints come about almost every week regarding coaching matters, but they only result in the removal of a coach about once a year.

Smaker feels that parent involvement regarding coaches has increased in recent years. "Most parents got involved as the 'pay to play' started to occur," said Smaker.

Even though parents pay \$75, they shouldn't have a say in coaching, according to Finn.

Forte does not see money as an issue. "It is our obligation as parents to support these programs. Whether you pay the \$75 or not, you should have an equal voice," said Forte.

Jones also denies that money is an issue. "Regardless of the money, both parents and students need to have their concerns addressed," Jones said.

Just as coaches and parents don't always see eye to eye on the extent of parent involvement, they don't always agree on the role that winning plays on deciding the longevity of a coach's job. Although coaches sometimes feel that parent complaints decrease as the team wins, parents don't see that as the case.

Finn noticed that parents were both supportive and critical of his coaching. "Parents were always on my side when I was winning; and when I wasn't winning there were always a lot of complaints," said Finn.

"It can happen that there is too much

emphasis in society that winning is everything," but at the varsity level there should be more of an effort to represent the school, said Fisher.

"I think that parents misplace the idea of winning with excellence," said Finn.

McMasters disagreed, saying that "the only objective of any coach is to win."

Forte believes that coaching style is more important than the success of the season. "The goal is to win. I don't think that is what it should be, but I think that is what it is...I don't think that if he doesn't have a winning season, he should be fired," said Forte.

Hart said that the objective of a sport should not be to win or to provide equal playing time to all athletes. "The

however. The coach thinks "he is doing it right or else he wouldn't be doing it the way that he is doing it," said Forte.

Finn agrees with Smaker that "parents have their (kids) best interest at heart, but what they don't recognize is that there are a lot of things that go on that are not under their jurisdiction."

To avoid problems with complaints, the administration should create a set of guidelines for what the coach can and can't get fired for, said Finn.

Although no such guidelines exist for firing a coach, there are certain circumstances where a coach will be immediately removed, according to Schmidt. Openly breaking the law, moral turpitude and flagrant violation of district policy are all grounds upon which a coach can be removed, said Schmidt.

A coach is evaluated at the close of his season and each case is individually assessed. Thus, a set guideline is difficult to establish. Former Campolindo

basketball coach Barry Hart agrees. "I don't know if you could establish guidelines, except to be fair and just," said Hart.

Amid the differing views of what is or isn't just regarding how far parents should go concerning coaches, Smaker offered some advice to the parents of student athletes: There are unreal expectations on the players, the coaches, and the referees. "Just sit there and enjoy your son or daughter playing," he said.

Parent Marty Fisher acknowledges that parents do tend to look more at their child, not so much at the team.

McMasters thinks that parent complaints are largely due to parents belief that they understand the game. Parents "think they know how to play the game, but they don't," said McMasters.

"When parents get involved, they mean well....but as a coach, you are a given the responsibility to carry out a job."

-Coach Changaris

objective is to play as hard as you can, win or lose, and have fun."

The question of whether or not parents can be objective judges of a coach with respect to their children is also at issue.

It is hard for a parent to be objective if a son or daughter is playing said Hart.

Forte felt that "as a parent, you want to protect your children...Can we be objective about it? Sometimes yes and sometimes not, that is one of our faults as parents."

Wayne Smaker, head of the P.E. department, feels that coaches are more objective when it comes to running their teams. "When parents get involved, they mean well....but as a coach, you are a given the responsibility to carry out a job."

Forte feels a parent might see something that the coach misses

OUTSIDE CLASSES

Local Colleges Offer Students a Break

By Heather Klurfeld
Staff Writer

Throughout the years at Acalanes, many students have decided to broaden their horizons and enter into the college-level education that many seniors covet, resulting in a taste of freedom while still restrained by high school and parents. Most students choose to go to Diablo Valley College or Laney College while some exceptional students are eligible to take classes at UC Berkeley.

The most frequented course by Acalanes High School students is US History 120 and 121 at DVC, said Counseling Clerk Meredith Moores. However, Moores reported that, contrary to popular belief, less than ten percent of the students from Acalanes take college-level classes outside of Acalanes.

The idea for most students is to get a college requirement met and out of the way, Counselor Sally Porter said. Porter believes that many people feel overloaded, especially junior year, so they choose to take the class over the summer or at night to get the credits out of the way.

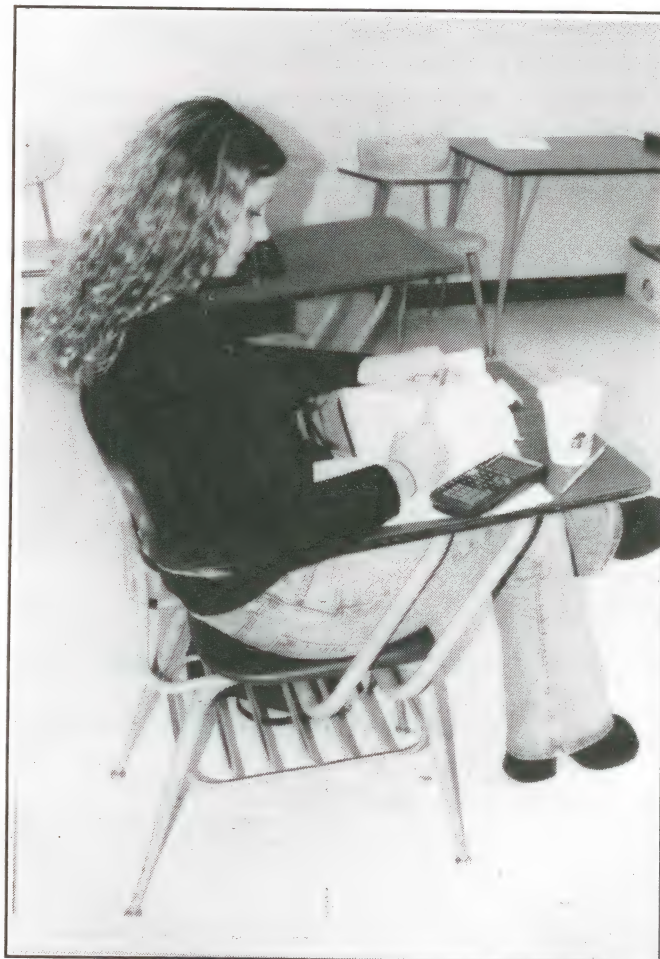
While the classes at DVC are supposed to be college level courses or at least comparable to the AP classes at Acalanes, most, students find, are not. Junior Jessica Drevno took Physics over the summer at DVC said that "it was interesting... (but) I'm sure it didn't go into as much detail as Physics here." Drevno said that her classes ran for six weeks, four days a week, two hours a day. This breaks down to seven school weeks at Acalanes, the equivalent of one quarter. The class was not a rigorous nor college-level course, she believes. Drevno said that "the classes I've taken at Acalanes (have been) more stimulating than that class."

AP US History teacher Larry Freeman examined the materials of the US History courses 120 and 121 from DVC. Freeman said "there is an incredible disparity between the apparent difficulty level and the quantity as well as the quality of the material." Freeman believes that, while

History 120 is a serious, college-level course, that 121 is "a joke and a farce... even compared to a regular US History class." Freeman believes that this class is not a challenge to the students, let alone a college-level course.

To the contrary, Professor Buzz Holt, a History 120 teacher at DVC, believes that the DVC curriculum does attempt to challenge its students. He believes that the classes at DVC are not comparable to the AP classes at Acalanes due to the fact that DVC has "a tremendous diversity of students... those who are able... but also people who are functionally illiterate." Holt points out that AP classes are usually full of motivated students who wish to push themselves; DVC is usually a "jumping-off point" for students who wish to either enter the UC or state systems or those who had difficulty in high school and are attempting to regain solid ground.

Other students take the classes at the local community colleges to get requirements out of the way. For example, junior year is very difficult, "especially with all of the different responsibilities and various class opportunities that the students are faced with. It just felt like something had to give, and that something was my summer," said Lauren Wondolowski, who took US History over the summer. Wondolowski definitely agrees that the course was not comparable to the AP US History class at Acalanes.



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Senior Stephanie Guglielmo works diligently on a test in her Pre-Calculus class at Diablo Valley College.

Most students do not regret their excursions to DVC. They feel that, although they may not be getting the attention nor the knowledge that they covet, they are passing the course with flying colors and do not care. Their only wish is to pass the course with a decent grade and to gain that extra point of their transcript when it comes time for college applications.

There are a vast number of students who take classes at college out of sheer interest. "I took physics just because it seemed like an interesting thing to explore," said Jessica Drevno, a junior who took physics at DVC over the summer. "It was definitely a different style learning and a heartening experience," Drevno said.

RECORD CLUB

Consumers Look Twice At Music Services

By **Sam Cunningham**
Staff Writer

In our consumer-based society physically traveling to a store to purchase goods is rapidly becoming outdated. Its replacements have come in two forms, Internet venues and mail-order catalogs. This is more apparent in the record industry than most others.

While Internet sales of CDs make up only a small percentage of the industry total, mail-order companies such as BMG Music Service and Columbia House have seen explosions of sales in recent years. These services, or "clubs," prove to be quite attractive to the average American. Saving the cost of operating an actual store, these clubs can reduce their costs enough to lower their prices below traditional stores. Through extraordinary deals and prices they make buying CDs from home seem very favorable.

Sophomore Alexander Gallo was a member of BMG for several years. "It just got too expensive. I kept receiving CDs I never asked for, even after I told them I didn't want them." Gallo ended up paying over \$60 dollars in unwanted merchandise.

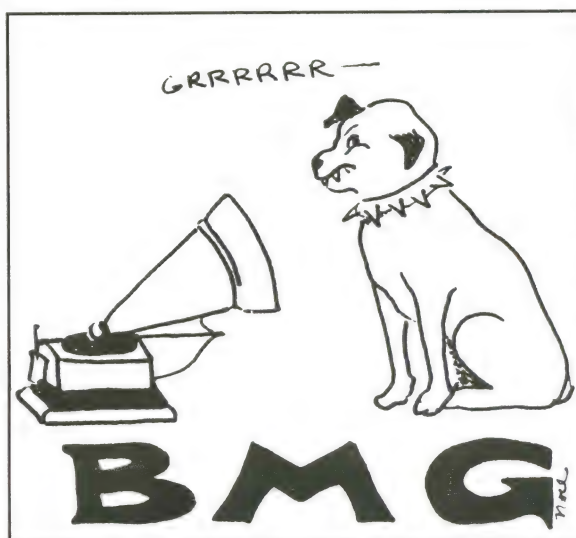
Freshman Katie Rygi belonged to Columbia House and also was forced to pay a substantial amount for unwanted merchandise. After writing a nasty letter to the company, Rygi was "freed of her obligation" and allowed to leave the club.

The usual offer clubs make are best generalized in BMG's contract. In this agreement the buyer is allowed to pick seven free selections (12,000 choices) to be sent through the mail. After receiving their initial merchandise the member is required to purchase one additional selection within a year at regular club prices (\$15-\$18). After this, the remaining three requests are shipped. This completes the introductory offer, and while this may seem like an excellent deal, there are certain catches and clauses that have caused much confusion among consumers:

-Both Columbia House and BMG charge an extra "shipping and handling cost" for

each selection. These costs can range from anywhere between two to five dollars, depending on the shipment. This is where the prices are made up or nearly made up. In addition, numerous other charges can be tacked onto the bill, such as a late payment.

-Second, your name, address and phone number are exposed to other companies who can in turn send you junk mail. In fact, each monthly packet from BMG containing the catalog and order forms is also packed with advertisements for merchandise and completely non-music items such as novels and South Park memorabilia.



-Third, monthly notices are sent out from most major clubs, including BMG and Columbia House, that "feature" a selection chosen by the club. The selection is usually highlighted and reviewed in the club magazine and is picked solely by the company headquarters. If the notice sent out by the club is not returned to the company (pay your own postage) within a few weeks with a negative reply, then the CD will be shipped regardless of the member's desire not to own it. It is in this way that way that the clubs make money through consumer negligence of deadlines.

-Recently Columbia House has attempted to eliminate the reply cards which so often plague customers. Their new service called Play promises that no service cards will be sent to the member and that music will only be sent when it is desired. The catch

is that instead of the standard one full price selection within a year, Play requires five normal selections within two years.

Columbia House, when asked about claims of customer dissatisfaction, declined to comment, as did BMG Music Service.

Consumer forums such as local the local ABC affiliate's Seven On Your Side, KCBS radio's Call For Action, and the State Department of Consumer Affairs have recorded no problems with these clubs, and it would appear as if problems customers are having are not severe enough to warrant reporting them.

Record clubs can continue to expand with very little effort or money. They can increase their sales simply by creating more attractive deals and increasing their mass mailings. This gives them an advantage over a "normal" record store which must invest considerable amounts of cash in order to expand its consumer base.

Online music stores such as CDNow (www.cdnow.com) and Amazon Books (www.amazon.com) have the same advantages as mail order companies in the fact that they operate from one central location and pay little or no basic operating costs. However, online purchasing of music comes with its own drawbacks. The prices may be steeper than a record club, and sending credit card numbers over modems is not 100% safe. Even so, sales of CDs at Internet venues have more than quadrupled over the past two years.

Although conventional stores may become smaller and less important in the future, personalized music ordering will definitely become a powerful force in the record industry in the years to come. The complexity of mail-order companies will eventually catch up with the services, and we may see a complete shift to Internet ordering. Or the high prices and lack of security could cause BMG and Columbia House to gain complete control over the CD-purchasing customer. Overall, one thing that will almost certainly emerge from this mess will be lower prices for the consumer.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE Not Given a Sporting Chance

By Rand Dadasovich and Andria Flakoll

Co-Editor-in-Chief and Feature Editor

Though it is considered a model program by the state, the Acalanes High School PE Department faces unpopularity among students and a growing pressure to reduce its three year requirement to make room for new electives and AP classes in the curriculum.

The Acalanes Union High School District requires three years of Physical Education in order to graduate, a standard higher than in some neighboring districts. In a recent *Blueprint* poll of 55 Acalanes students, 65.5% said they oppose the three year requirement.

However, the reason for the noted unpopularity of the requirement evades some. "PE is a good benefit for the day. I think it's important for (students) to be out in the fresh air and just relax and have a good time with their friends and not be stressed," said Campolindo Associate Principal Carol Kitchens, who is also the PE program coordinator for the district.

"I think people see PE as more of a punishment. It's almost like a rite of passage. Three years which everyone suffers through together," said sophomore Melissa Palmer.

But Social Studies teacher and Football Coach Pat Smith explains these opinions are unjustified. "A lot of people just assume PE is a bunch of old-time coaches who are more interested in their teams than actual PE classes. Whenever

someone comes to visit our department, though, they are truly amazed by what we are doing," Smith said.

The PE requirement, one of the controversial topics which may explain some of the animosity toward PE, was one adopted by this particular district eighteen years ago, said Assistant Super-

criticism from students. Of those students polled, 76.3% said the district should lower the PE requirement to two years.

However, most students have learned to accept the requirement, albeit unhappily. "I found it pretty ridiculous to discover that our district requires a student to take more years of PE than math. But, it's just the way things are. I don't see it changing anytime soon," said junior Lisa Smithy.

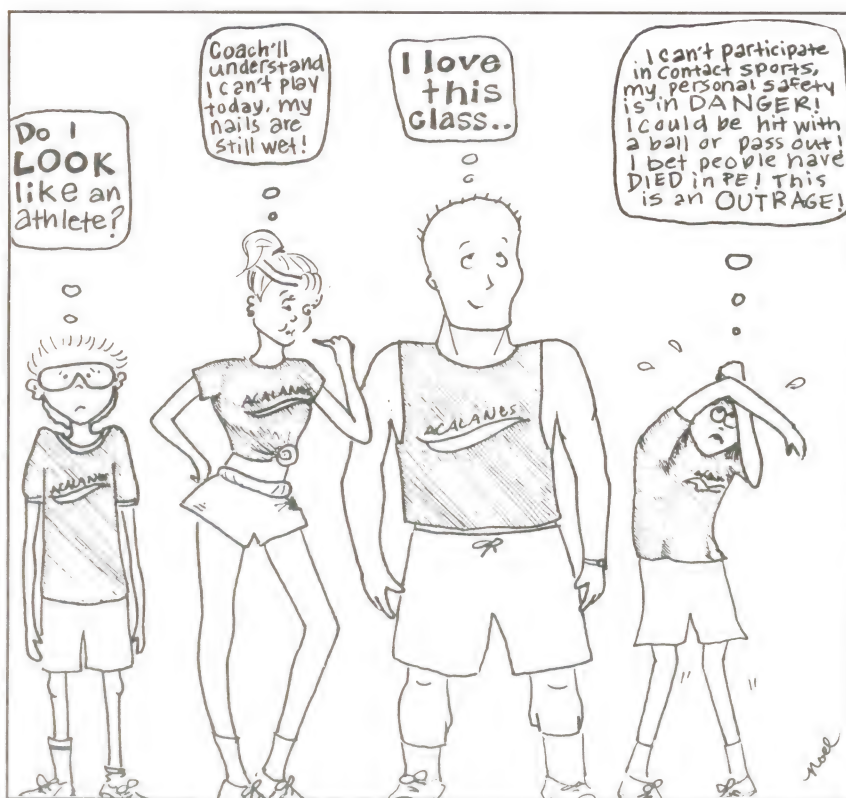
In fact, according to the AUHSD graduation requirements outlined in the Acalanes Student Handbook, PE is one of the few subjects to require three years of study. It is third, only behind English and Social Studies, in the list of subjects requiring the most years of participation in order to graduate.

However, Kitchens points out that most students surpass the graduation requirements in other subjects. "Most of our kids take three or four years of math even though it is-

n't required," she said.

Another reason students and parents may view PE negatively, according to AHS PE Department Chair Wayne Smaker, is the attitude of college admissions offices toward PE grades. "I don't think that PE is ever going to be on par with English, Social Studies, and other academic classes until it's accepted by the University of California," said Smaker.

In fact, PE grades are purposely ignored in the UC system's "1999-2000 Application for Undergraduate Admission." The application asks the student to calculate his/her own GPA using a specially designed UC equation. "PE grades weren't used in the GPA calcula-



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

intendent of Curriculum Dr. Joanna Haukland. "It was determined a long, long time ago. There really have been no thoughts about changing it...particularly in light of all the research that says teens are more unhealthy than ever," she said.

It has been a tradition in the AUHSD to have rigorous standards, and PE is no different, said Kitchens. "The district is committed to having healthy and fit students and so they feel this is one way to do it, by encouraging three years of PE."

But the Acalanes PE department, which was honored approximately 8 years ago by the state of California for its outstanding program, finds its harshest

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

tion," said senior Rachel Messer. "The application never even asked for them."

Some consider this ironic, however, since the State of California has changed its framework within the past decade to encourage a more physically fit population. The state mandates that students take only two years of PE, a minimum which may be augmented by individual school districts as in the case of the AUHSD.

The UC system's failure to place emphasis on PE, a trend which is consistent with other public and private universities, may be fueling a subtle movement among students and teachers to lower the PE requirement. With the recent push to offer more accelerated classes at Acalanes, some see the three year PE requirement as a hinderance.

In fact, 89.1% of the students polled said they would consider taking an AP class or elective in place of PE if the physical education requirement were lowered to two years. "We're having trouble meeting UC requirements in a huge number of areas, and where the status for getting into the best schools continues to get more rigorous, we have to find space somewhere. It gets pretty obvious," said one teacher who requested anonymity.

However the teacher does see a strong need for physical education, though maybe not in the form of three required years. "We are an out-of-condition society, and our youth are particularly out-of-condition. A lifetime of some sort of physical activity makes life much richer. We can all agree to that and still not necessarily agree that it has to be done at school," said the teacher.

Smaker, who strongly believes that PE is an essential part of a full education even if students may not realize it, said that the three year requirement has a lot to do with the seven period schedule of the district. "Most school districts with six periods or an alternate scheduling system have two year (PE) requirements. But these schools are also often larger, with a greater number of PE teachers, and have access to more available facilities," said Smaker.

The San Ramon Valley School district follows a six period schedule and has only

a two year PE requirement. Carol MacThail, PE Chairwoman at San Ramon Valley High School, said that her department is extremely popular among students, in part because of the variety of PE classes offered. After the freshman core program, sophomores and upperclassmen may participate in, and sometime enroll in whole classes dedicated to: yoga, dance, Tai Chi, aerobics, archery, floor hockey, and four levels of dance, to name just a few. San Ramon also offers more traditional sports like wrestling, basketball, baseball, swimming, and volleyball.

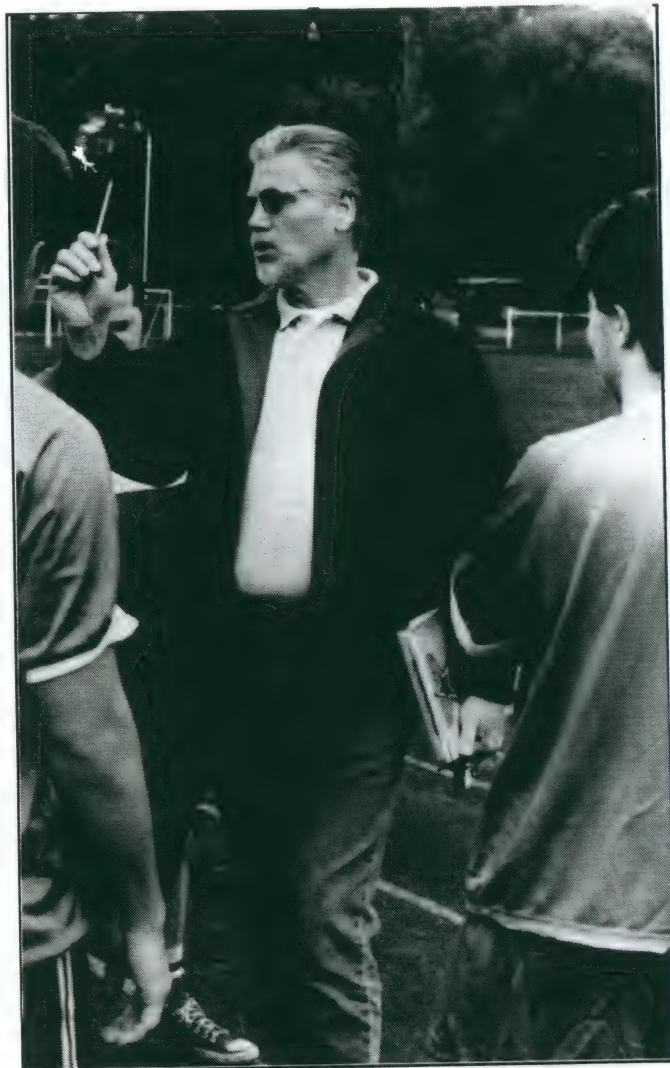
"Although we only have a two year requirement, we have probably about 2/3 of the student body enrolled in PE. We have seniors in every class, it's amazing. A lot of them like it because it's a chance to get a free workout," said MacThail.

However, in contrast to Acalanes, San Ramon has roughly 2,000 students and a PE staff of 8 full-time and 4 part-time teachers with the experience necessary to teach such eclectic activities.

According to Kitchens, the curriculum offered at the AUHSD schools depends a lot on the expertise of the teachers. Campolindo "offers archery, some (schools) don't. Acalanes and Miramonte both offer dance. It also depends a lot on the facilities. Campolindo is the smallest school, so we tend to have more facilities available so we can offer different things. It's possible that other activities...could be offered if the (PE) teachers are willing to do it," Kitchens said.

But PE teacher Sheila Sedlachek is quick to point out that student safety and available space make some alternative sports logistically impossible. "We used to offer archery. But the classes are bigger now, and it's too much for one teacher to handle. It would be a nightmare to teach a class of fifty freshman archery. Where would we do it?" said Sedlachek.

Because the PE classes are sometimes twice as large as those of regular classes, Acalanes has geared its offerings toward more traditional team sports, which are easier to manage. Smaker considers it the only logical option considering the lack of available space and impending campus renovation.



PE Department Chair Wayne Smaker assigns a running set to his third period Weight Training class on the track.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT OPINION

INSIDE



Female athletes
are rough-riders
too.

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March 26, 1999

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CHAT WITH CHUCK

A Delight in the Dropping Dow

By Charlie Eaton
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I can't help it any longer. I've got to come out of the closet, because it's true. I love it when the Dow drops.

It's an opinion that could get me lynched in Lafayette, especially with the Dow hovering at 10,000. I've been heckled for this delight more than once. People just can't believe that I revel in other peoples' misfortune. But I do.

WAIT! Don't crumple this up just yet. Hear me out.

To understand my delight, one must first understand my displeasure that people are overjoyed when the stock market skyrockets. This displeases me because investments in stocks increase when corporations become more efficient and profitable. There's nothing wrong with that. But there is something dreadfully wrong with how corporations become more efficient and profitable.

For the most part, American corporations become more productive by laying off workers, slashing workers' wages, abusing the environment, or moving production plants to third world countries where it is easier to exploit labor (can I get a woah Nike?). So, in effect, the stock market goes up when corporations abuse average, working Americans and their families.

For example, America Online completed its takeover of Netscape last Friday. While the takeover was being completed, individuals close to the compa-

ny leaked to The Street.com that 30% of Netscape's 2,500 employees would be laid off as soon as next week. Unsurprisingly, AOL's stock rose \$3.12 on the New York Stock Exchange while the news echoed through American financial centers. In addition, the value of

meat-ax restructuring in 1993, the stock has gone around the clock three revolutions," writes Sosnoff. Well, I guess that's nice... unless your the employee being lopped off with the meat-ax.

On the other hand, the stock market falls when companies either are mismanaged or place more emphasis (God forbid) on the well-being of their employees than on their profits and the subsequent well being of their lazy, gluttonous investors.

An astute reader would now probably point out that when investment goes down, companies then lay off many workers and that this hurts average Americans even more than corporate tactics for increasing efficiency. This is quite true and makes my delight in the dropping Dow even more inexplicable. But for what purpose do companies lay off workers? To bring investments back at the expense of workers.

I admit, my logic is slightly flawed. In the best of all worlds, investors would reward corporations for treating their employees well. But investors (many of which reside in Lafayette) refuse to so.

They put productivity ahead of business ethics. Profits before lives.

So why don't we begin investing in corporations with positive business ethics, happy workers, and considerate environmental policies so we can have a real reason to rejoice when we open up the New York Times to see that the Dow broke 10,000.



AOL and Netscape's stock has doubled since AOL announced its acquisition plans, which would inevitably spell layoffs in the name of efficiency (God bless it).

In the June 19, 1997 issue of *Forbes Magazine*, Martin Sosnoff cleverly describes the rule's application by the computer company IBM. "Since its

PRO/CON

Is Anybody Really Listening?

Can demonstrators and grass roots activists make a difference?

By Hannah Hens-Piazza

News Editor

Student protests have proved to be an extremely effective tool in pushing major corporations to settle or change their practices.

Just last month, Acalanes students led an Amnesty International protest in San Francisco outside Chevron Headquarters, asking the company to talk with them and/or other local human rights organizations about the alleged human rights violations that have taken place recently in Nigeria. About 50 students attended the protest.

As a result of this and many other protests around the country, Chevron agreed to meet with local human rights organizations and environmental organizations, among them Amnesty Acalanes.

Though Chevron is a huge corporation, the cries of students and other local organizations persuaded them to give in and grant the requested meeting.

Though this meeting may not change Chevron's practices forever, it shows that students can have an effect of large corporations. In addition, the protest was a learning experience for all those who attended.

One of the most important tools Amnesty and other groups like it use is publicity. Not only did the large Acalanes protest earn a full article in the local Contra Costa Times, it also was presented on Bay TV. Chevron's unwillingness to settle on the day of the protest made the company look bad, and large corporations fear bad publicity.

If student protests were not as least somewhat effective, what could have provoked the tens of thousands of students to protest the way they did during the Vietnam war in the 60's? They were determined to put an end to their country's involvement in the war and the military draft that was taking away loved ones. The fact that the protests of the 60's are now an important part of history shows that the protestors were taken seriously.

These and other protests are both an important way for students to voice their opinions and a way for companies to hear those voices and act on them.

Young adults are at a point in their lives where they are developing their opinions and often starting to break away from the values and ideals that they grew up with. Protesting is a means of expressing these newly formed beliefs, which are often more liberal than those of past generations.

Acalanes students, many of whom are financially very well off, were not forced to protest. Instead, they were all in support of the cause, namely protecting human rights in a third world country.

By Sam Cunningham

Staff Writer

Acalanes' Amnesty International recently held a protest over Chevron Incorporated human rights abuses in Nigeria. Although some speculation has arisen about the extent and legitimacy of Amnesty International's claims, we will assume for the sake of clarity that these claims are true.

To be blunt: corporations are so powerful in our society, that trying to stop them, while commendable, is next to pointless. To think that protestors can challenge such forces and actually win is naive. Corporations have such extreme influence in modern America that they can control powerful, much less minor, political forces with little effort. The practice of lobbying the US Congress can often water down or halt legislation or decrees deemed harmful to corporate interests.

In 1993, President Clinton's highly anticipated national health care system was shot down by corporations. His plan was deemed to infringe on health care corporation's profits and, as a result, the powerful HMO's crushed the effort. More recently, Big Tobacco killed landmark smoking legislation last June, through powerful lobbying techniques which guaranteed the bill's defeat.

The story of the protesters against the corporations is a classic example of David versus Goliath. Except in this version, David loses quite badly. And besides, even if the claims against Chevron are true, the company alleged will continue to get away with anything it chooses to do. Why?

-First, mainstream news organs rarely report alleged violations of human rights. When they do show up they are random and brief. Corporations own most of the mainstream media in the United States.

-Second, the general public is overall apathetic and unconcerned with the fate of Nigerians halfway across the globe. To most Americans, Chevron is simply a dispenser of gasoline, not a heartless multi-national corporation.

-Third, the general public has a very short-term memory concerning events such as these.

-Fourth, the general public is extremely ignorant. Don't expect the American people to know much about Nigeria, other than it is a country in Africa. I doubt nine-tenths of them have even heard of Amnesty International.

-Fifth, even if the protestors succeeded in drawing massive media attention to these events and caused great outcry among the public, Chevron can simply promise, as it did, to change its ways and continue with its corporate practices. Or it can simply flat out deny the accusations and stonewall both the protestors and the media.

In this fight of David versus Goliath, David may have skinned Goliath's knee, but he is still the loser.

SEXISM IN SPORTS

Sexist Sports Fans Should Watch Lady Dons

By Vanessa Totten
Co-Editor-In-Chief

If the way our students support sports teams was equivalent to the way the school funded them, the school would have a big lawsuit on its hands.

Though Title IX requires that schools provide equal facilities and funding to girls sports teams, the law cannot require equal support from students. And students favor attending guys sports teams, even when girls games are more convenient.

This sexist fan support is no more evident than in the basketball season. Both our guys and girls teams have played impressively well this year. The guys team is 29-5 and second place in NorCal division III. The girls team is 30-4, won the NorCal division III tournament, and took the division III state

championship. However, even though the girls had a slightly better record and longer season, the fans repeatedly decided to attend boys games and forsake girls games.

In the NorCal playoffs the girls team had a higher seed than the boys, so they won home-court advantage for their games. The boys had to travel as far as Sacramento because their seed was lower. Part of the reason that having home court is an advantage is that the team will have more fans. Not so for Acalanes the Lady Dons.

During the playoffs, the girls had a Tuesday night game at home. The bleachers were full of parents, but only about 25 students attended the game. The boys played Natomas High School in Sacramento, a good 60-90 minute drive from Lafayette. The guys had around 25-30 fans at the game.

Just two days later, the girls played at home again, and had even fewer fans (closer to 20 students). The boys played Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco and had about 50 student fans.

This pattern echoed through the regular season as well. The only time there was a full crowd for the girls game was when they were playing back-to-back with the boys. Why would a school full of educated students think that supporting the boys team was more important? The girls are just as tough as the guys. If you don't believe me, watch junior Lauren Murray take a big hit, pick herself up off the floor, and continue to score. She does it at least once a week.

Almost every girl that has significant play time on the team has black and blue knees, and an ice pack in one place or another after the game, but you could never even tell they were hurting during the game. This doesn't seem to effect the fans.

The girls are an intensely physical team, running intense defense from the first quarter to the last. But, there is nobody there to witness it.

The media supports this discrimination. After the boys team lost to El Cerrito in the title game of the California Interscholastic Federation NorCal Division III playoffs, the Contra Costa Times ran the story on the front page of the sports section. The story had two pictures and was continued later in the section. The girls were covered on page 14 of the sports section and had only one picture.

No matter how hard women's rights activists fight for equal treatment, there is no way they will be able to get people to separate the long standing belief that most people hold that men's sports are real and women's sports are just for fun. Many members of the WNBA would be glad to corroborate. The top salaries in the WNBA are around \$100,000. In the NBA, stars sign contracts for salaries in the multi-millions.. Title nine has been in effect for more than a generation now, but its effects have not infiltrated the long standing beliefs that men are better athletes.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Who says that girls are not tough enough for contact sports?

A CALANES BLUEPRINT ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE



Thomas Wille
analyzes
Analyze This
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MUSICAL

Luck was a Lady to *Guys and Dolls*

By Lindsay Wood
Staff Writer

The audience was hushed as the Orchestra began to play and the curtains rose. The opening night of "Guys and Dolls", March 18, in the Acalanes auditorium began in silence and ended in thunderous applause.

The applause was much deserved. The vocalists harmonized brilliantly, the dancers performed nearly perfect, synchronized acrobatics, and orchestra never missed a beat.

As the musical started the audience was sent back in time to the 1940's in New York where the small time gamblers and street walkers rule the streets.

As the scenes go by with numbers like; I'll Know, Guys and Dolls, Take Back Your Mink, Luck Be A Lady, and Sit Down Your Rocking The Boat, the love story between two couples unfolds.

As a small time gambler named Sky Masterson, played by senior Dave Brown, falls for a salvation army worker named Sarah Brown, played by junior Sage Howard, and gambler Nathan Detroit, played by senior Brandon Jones, avoids marriage to his fiancée of 14 years Adelaide, played by senior Leslie Noel, the orchestra follows along and the audience falls in love with the characters.

Noel and senior Blake Quin, who played Nicely Nicely Johnson, offered particularly stunning performance. Their crystal clear voices resonated beautifully despite the poor acoustics of the small gym.

The thunderous applause which Luck Be A Lady received and Sit Down, Your Rocking the Boat won the



Blueprint Photo/Will McKosker

The people of New York City bustle along Broadway and gossip while the Acalanes Orchestra builds suspense at the beginning of the Musical Guys and Dolls.

auditorium was transformed into the sewers of New York City and a church filled with a dozen sinners the audience whistled and clapped to the lively tunes.

The musical's director, Karen Linford, did not lie when she said, "everyone works very well together, and in fact when the show is over I think it brings the cast a lot closer." It seems that the two hundred hours the cast spent rehearsing really paid off.

Junior Shawna Trudrung, who plays a street walker in the musical said that, "Working on the musical was fun, and a lot of hard work, but

it has all paid off and has been very rewarding."

The musical's greatest drawbacks came when the orchestra drowned out the voices of the cast's talented vocalists. But for the majority of the play, the actors and actresses overcame this minor obstacle.

Senior Leslie Noel summed up the performance best, saying, "In my opinion the musical is like a cake because it takes so many ingredients and it takes the most careful preparation to get it all together but it always comes out incredibly spectacular."

CALCULATOR VIDEO GAMES

Mmmmm... Tetris in Algebra II/Trig

Video Games on Graphing Calculators Catch Eyes of Acalanes Students

By James Sherwood
Staff Writer

As any slacker student knows, calculator games can be a great alternative to taking notes or listening to a lecture. But many teachers feel it has become a significant problem.

Although Nibbles or Frogger are not the greatest things in entertainment it certainly provides a much-needed break from the monotonous daily routine of school. Surprisingly these games have become an important part of school culture. But unfortunately, the games addictive nature distracts students from classwork.

"I find the game pretty addictive," said Senior Sam Glickman. "I'm trying to beat Scott Hazards high score of 47 on very fast for Nibbles," Glickman explained.

Ms. Guthrie, a science teacher at Acalanes said, "It is really distracting to the students. I have seen kids with grades that are not what they should be, playing games in class."

Even though teachers try to stop it, kids are always going to find a way to distract themselves. Any student with a graphing calculator TI83 or above can play, and games can easily be loaded on from another calculator. Some favorites range from classics like Mario Brothers and Tetris to Nibbles and Drug Wars. For those that are really interested, there are cables that can link up two calculators, allowing them to play simultaneously.

All the students interviewed for this article named Nibbles as their favorite game. Glickman said Nibbles is his favorite because "there's always room for improvement. You can beat other games and then they just get boring.

But Nibbles just keeps going."

Senior Scott Hazard was quoted, "It's definitely a great way to kill time in class. The games really aren't that great, but it's a lot better than working."

As students advance in math, graphing calculators are required, but instead of helping them work they can cause problems.

Mr. Klier, a math teacher at Acalanes said, "You try to teach kids that don't find math easy, and they spend their time playing games. You ask yourself what the point of teaching is. It's never a problem for the kids who want to work hard and learn, but many feel playing games is more important."

The bottom line is kids are always looking for a way to get out of

school and if there are games sitting on their desk they are naturally going to give in.

Sophomore Matt Seibert, an avid game player, said, "Calculators are a great way to pass time. I especially enjoy linking up with my friends in class. The multi-player games require much more strategy and quick thinking. I have to admit I am the champion at Nibbles. Last year I reached level 15 on the hardest setting!"

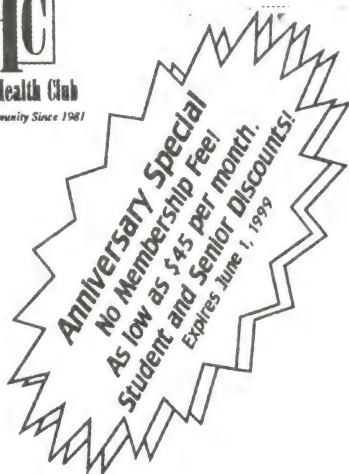
"Glickman, however, believes Hazard to be the champion.

Obviously our school faces bigger problems than video games, but as its popularity grows teachers are going to become more concerned. They may disapprove of it, but there is no stopping a bored student.



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

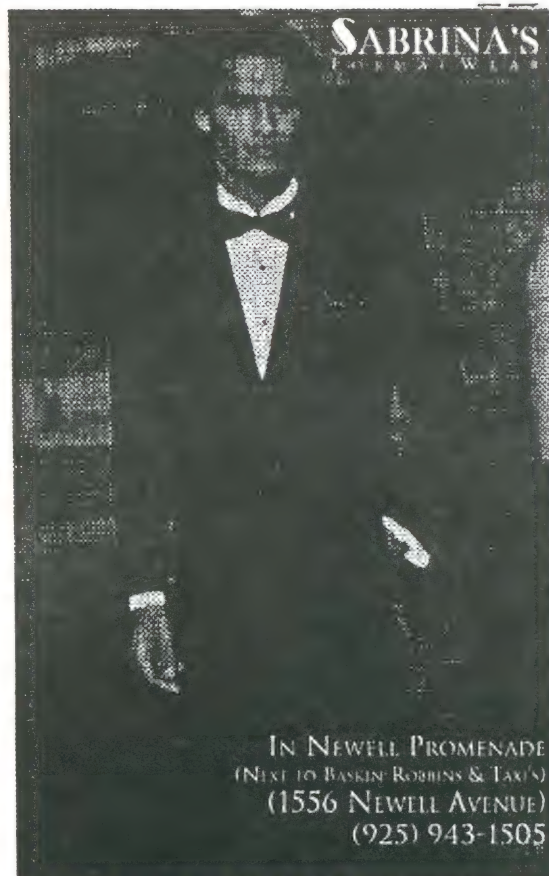
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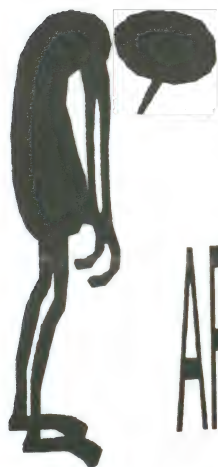
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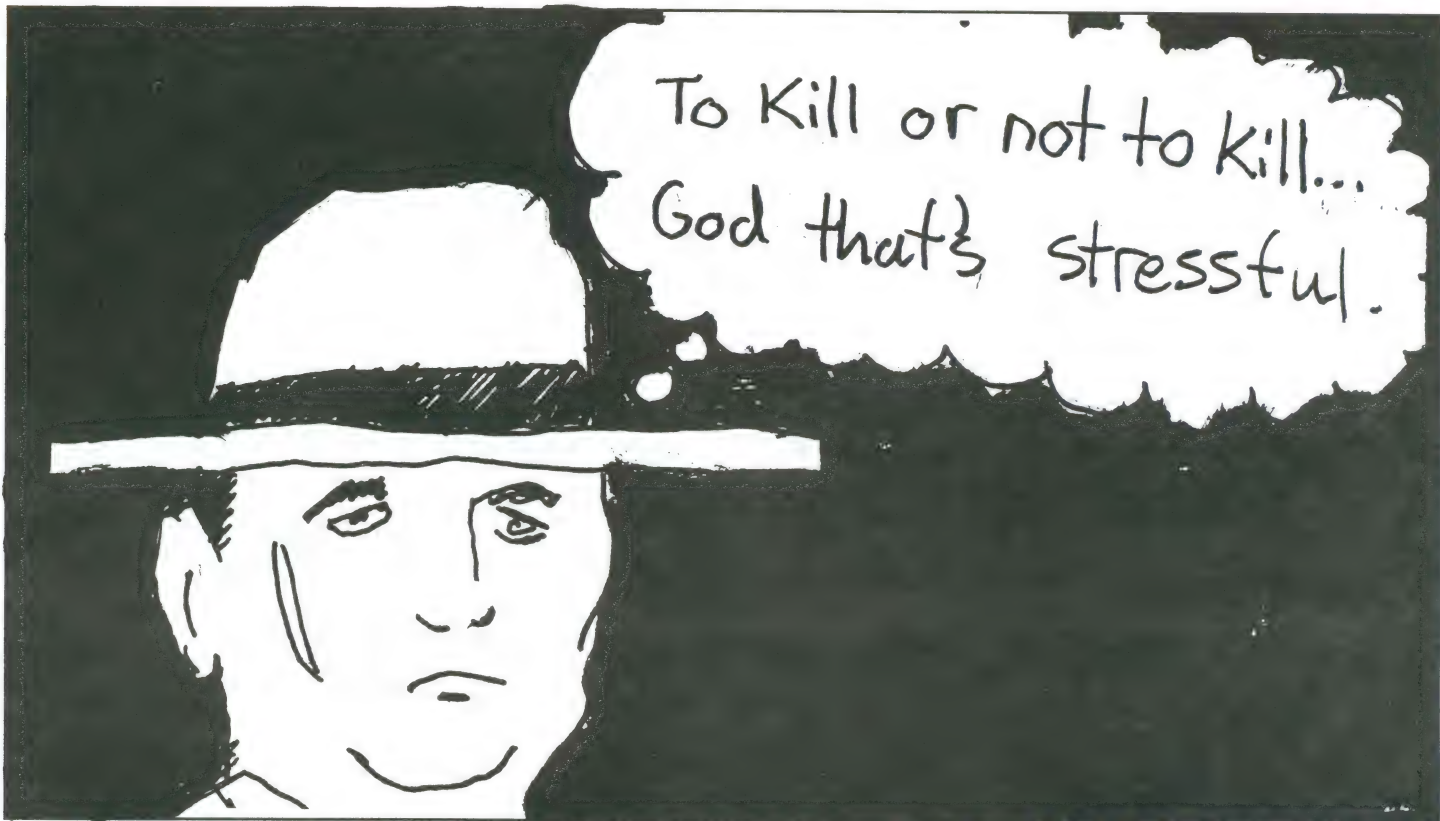
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MOVIE REVIEWS

Positive Analysis For *Analyze This*



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

By Thomas Wille
Staff Writer

Analyze This (Warner Brothers)



Analyze This is a solid, funny comedy. I had feared it would be a lame Billy Crystal comedy like the awful *My Giant*. However, sufficient star power allows this fun, escapist flick to ease your nerves with laughter.

Robert De Niro plays mafia boss Paul Vitti, who has begun to have panic attacks brought on by his stressful life-style. He seeks out a psychiatrist (played by Billy Crystal) to solve his mental problems in two weeks.

The film is strong because the mob boss is realistically naive of the world outside of crime. He deals with everyone as a criminal. He also has no idea how psychiatry works, and threatens to kill Crystal if he turns him into a homosexual. The Mafioso has no understanding of Crystal's life and is constantly harassing him for therapy. The film is pretty formulaic, but I found it's mixing of the formula quite refreshing, and the new *Star Wars* trailer was part of the package.

Out of Sight (now on video cassette)



Out of Sight is a pretty overlooked workaday movie, and it deserves to

stay that way. It stars George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez, with a Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid type relationship with a little romance thrown in.

Out of Sight features George Clooney as a bank robber, and Jennifer Lopez as the US Marshal who loves him. Clooney escapes from jail and as Lopez chases him she immediately falls in love. The film is rather predictable, and I actually would have preferred a happy ending. For some unexplained reason Clooney has to rob banks, he just can't work the nine to five, but you never know why, so he remains unconvincing.

Out of Sight has received surprisingly high critical acclaim. I think this is because of the Chemistry between Clooney and Lopez, and their realistic flirting. However, this fails to take into account that these two people could and would never fall in love, and that is why this movie is weak. It never convinced me.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT SPORTS

INSIDE

*Boys Basketball Loses
in NCS Finals*

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CAPTION

Junior point guard Corrie Mizusawa skillfully evades a defender and goes up for the lay-up. Corrie's consistent scoring proved invaluable to the team's success.



GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Dons Hoops Bask in State of Perfection

Lady Dons beat Harvard-Westlake to take the state title

By Vanessa Totten
Co-Editor-In-Chief

"We wanted to make history," said senior Rachel Rosemeyer. And they did.

The Lady Dons basketball team overcame Harvard-Westlake-North Hollywood and three unfair referees to take the California Interscholastic Federation Division Three title. For the first time, the Dons won a state title on Saturday, March 20, the final score was 47-42. They attempted a state title two years ago, but were defeated in the title game.

The Dons, whose overall season record is 30-4, played a too-close for comfort game, defeating the Harvard-Westlake-North Hollywood Wolverines, overall 29-6, in an intense run in the last two minutes. The Dons were down by four points when junior point guard Corrie Mizusawa spied a loose ball. She grabbed it, ran down

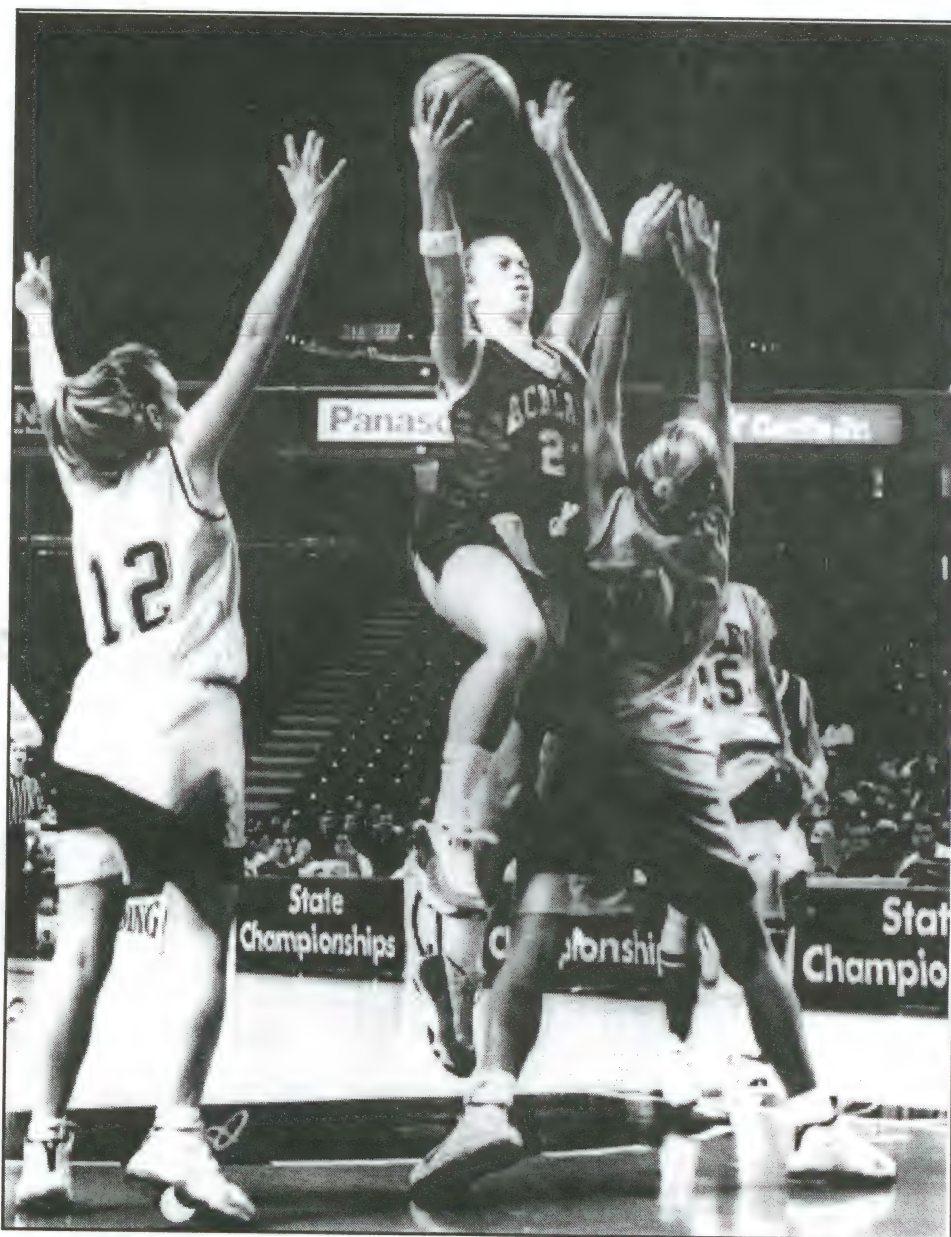
court and scored an NBA three-pointer.

coach Brian Taylor said "they took the momentum back so quickly...If we

would have gotten that ball, I think we would have won the game." Mizusawa, who scored the last two points after an intentional foul was called on Harvard-Westlake, said "after I made that three, things started falling in place and raised my confidence."

Within a matter of minutes the momentum of the game switched hands several times. With about five minutes left in the fourth, 5-10 forward Rosemeyer was fouled out. Two minutes later, 6-2 sophomore center Laura Fischer was also fouled out. Fisher is the tallest Lady Don, Rosemeyer is the second. Fisher is the only Don over six feet tall. The Wolverines had four players over six feet, so when Fischer and Rosemeyer fouled out,

the Dons lacked height under the basket and in the field. Though Taylor said "I thought it would turn the game



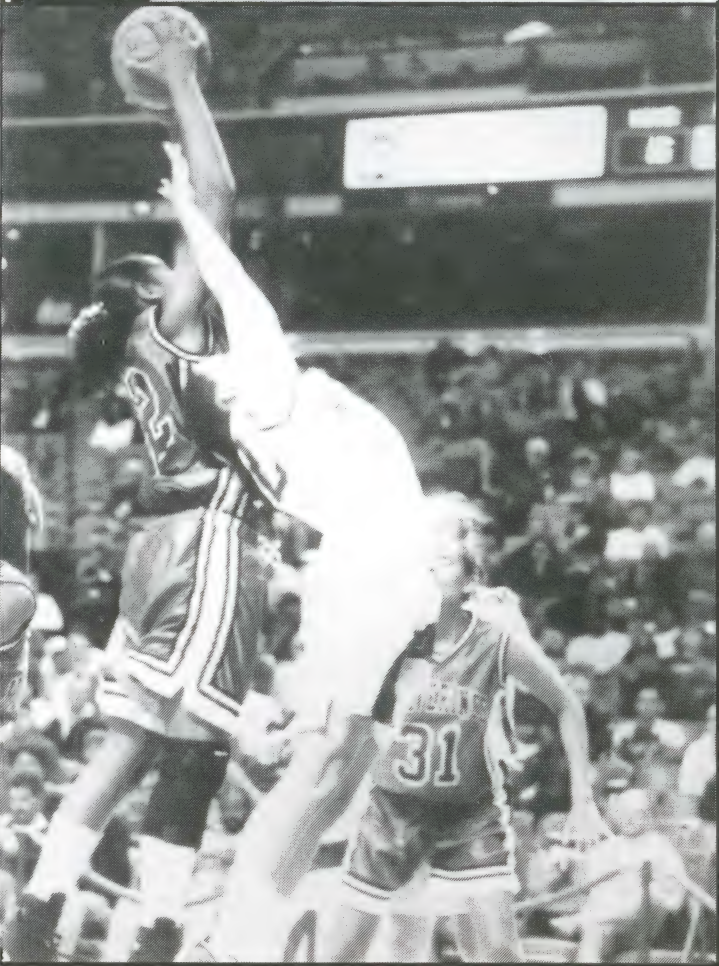
Senior forward Rachel Rosemeyer doggedly attacks the rim from inside against Del-Oro Loomis in the NorCal title game, which the Dons won 37-22.

From that play on, the momentum was with the Dons, who scored an additional six points to end the game. Harvard-Westlake-North Hollywood

Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Story continued on page 27

GIRLS' BASKETBALL



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

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GIRLS' BASKETBALL

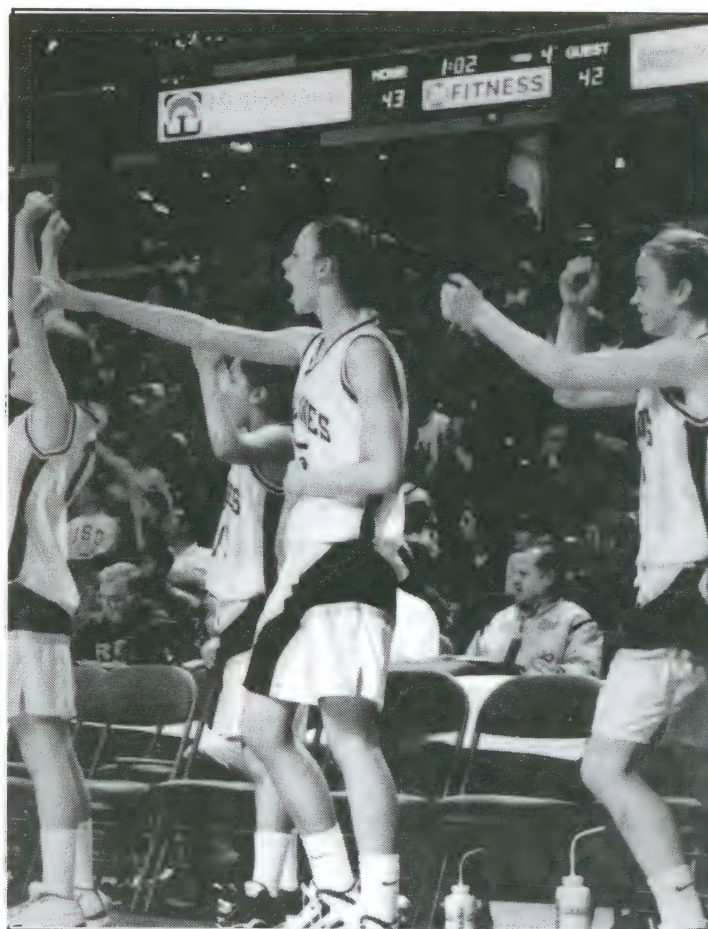
around," the Dons were able to hold their own and recover from what Dons coach Casey Rush called "a couple of questionable calls."

The Dons were able to come back because the Wolverines had "tired legs" said Rush. The Dons have always preferred quick games because they can wear out almost any opponent. Rush said the game was saved by putting in "a veteran (senior guard Megan Babcock) and rotating guarding over to different people." Junior forward Hillary Andersen took over defending Harvard-Westlake star Omelogo Udeze, who is 6-2. Andersen said "We didn't want her at the line."

The Dons played a strong first half, leading 23-20 at the buzzer. They did not let the Wolverines height advantage stop them from rebounding, making a

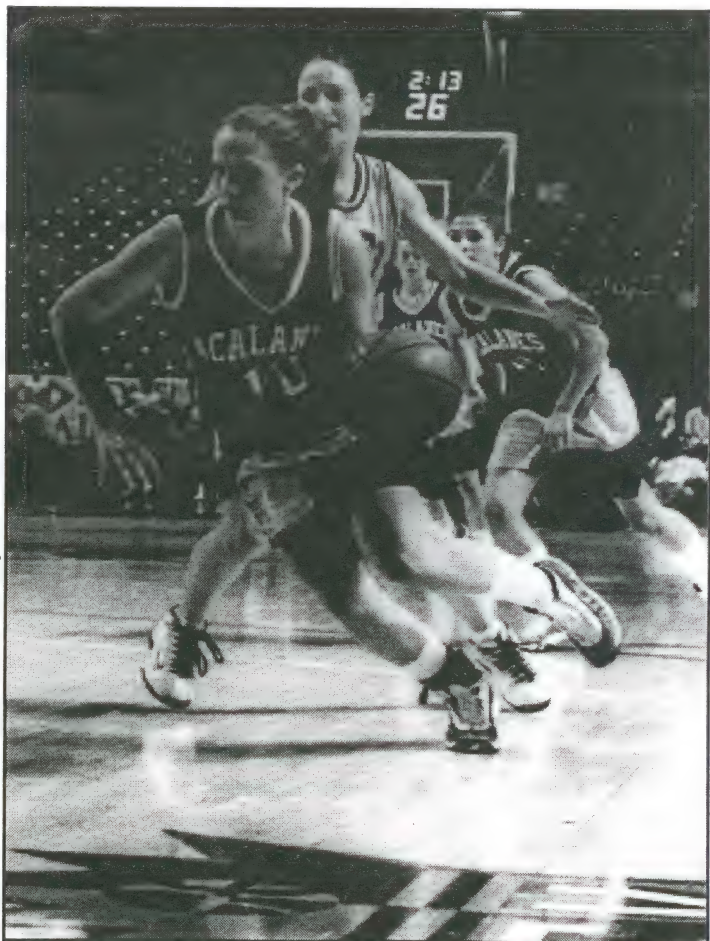
total of 42 rebounds, shooting 34.1 percent off of rebounds. Wolverine coach Taylor said "they (the Dons) did a fantastic job of scratching the board." Of his teams' first-half performance, he noted several factors, "we shot poorly, but the girls gave it their all... they hustled" and "our defense let us down a little bit," that led to their defeat.

The lead shooters for the Dons



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Sophomore Laura Fischer and senior Rachel Rosemeyer cheer their team on with 1:02 left in the fourth quarter.



Junior Hillary Andersen skillfully maneuvers down court towards the hoop.

were Mizusawa with 22 points, Andersen with 6 points and Rosemeyer, Fischer and junior forward Lauren Murray with five each. Westlake's top scorer was Udeze with 20 points. Junior forward Lisa Ovadia and Murray lead the rebounding with seven each. Udeze also lead the rebounding for Westlake with nine offensive and nine defensive re-

bounds. Murray lead the Dons in assists and steals, with two each. Murray was honored with the CIF Division III citizenship and sportsmanship award after the game.

In order to get to this game, the Dons had to win the North Coast Section Division III title, which they did by defeating Novato 52-48, Encinal 58-39 and Arcata 48-38. In the California Interscholastic Federation playoffs, the Dons defeated Anderson 62-49, Bear River-Lake of the Pines 58-47 and Del Oro-Loomis 37-22.

The Girls Varsity Basketball team and their coaches would like to thank the cheerleaders, band members, students, parents and fans for their support during this season.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Valiant Loss to Gauchos at Gate of State

By Reed Miller
Staff Writer

The Acalanes Dons' season ended at Arco Arena on Saturday, Mar. 13 when they lost 48-41 to El Cerrito in the NorCal championship game. They played virtually the entire game without their point guard, senior Justin Smith. With only 1:30 played in the game, Justin hurt his knee when going for a loose ball. He lay on the court for five minutes before he was carried off to the bench. The looks on the faces of the team said it all: they were in shock. Coach Rob Collins summed it up after the game. "You take our point guard away, he's one of the top five in the bay area, you take him away from us at 1:30 and we lose to the number one team in the state damn near by seven points."

The Dons (29-5) played with all their heart and gave every ounce of their effort in their loss. Even senior guard Brett Gingery played, despite his injured ankle. They held El Cerrito scoreless until four minutes into the game, and remained tied 9-9 at the end of the first.

In the second quarter, El Cerrito moved to their inside game and took the lead. senior Andrew Gooden scored 14 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, six of them offensive, helping El Cerrito take a 27-17 halftime lead. In the third quarter, the Dons didn't allow the Gauchos to have their way. They played good solid defense and closed the gap, down only 38-30 at the end of the quarter.

The fourth quarter looked promising

for the Dons. They held El Cerrito scoreless for the first 2:30 and were only down by six. Down 44-38 with only 1:40 left in the season, senior EJ Verceles, 11 points, shot a three and was fouled. He calmly

they shoot the ball so well."

Gooden thought that if Acalanes had been fully healthy, "it would have changed the course of the game." Collins said, "if Justin doesn't get hurt, we'd have a game next Saturday (Mar. 20)." With Gingery and Smith healthy, Collins thinks Acalanes would have "devastated them."

Acalanes defeated Riordan in the NorCal semifinals at Riordan High 58-43 on Mar. 11.

The Dons were down 8-0 when Collins took a time out with about three minutes in the period which sparked life into the team, closing the gap to 12-9 at the end of the first. "I looked into their eyes and they knew the big man was ready to rock and roll. I wasn't messing around. These boys deserve a shot at playing at Arco Arena for a chance to go to the state title."

The Dons executed their offense very well, making it tough for Riordan to keep up at times. On an inbound play with 6.2 seconds left in the half, Smith passed into Matt Teichmann, then over to Duffaut, who made the wide-open lay-up before Riordan's defense knew what happened.

The going got tough in second half when Riordan applied a suffocating press, the Dons responded by going back to the basics and

passed the ball down the court. This resulted in several easy points, one of which was a slam by Erik Ramp with 4:50 to play in the game. From there out, the Dons sailed to a 58-43 victory.

The Riordan coach expected a tough game. "I thought they would be a tough match up, and they were." The Dons defeat-



Senior center Matt Teichmann beats Gaucho center Andrew Gooden and his outstretched arms against El Cerrito in the NorCal

stepped up to the free throw line and swished all three free throws to pull the Dons within three. From there the Dons tried to make stops defensively and score, but could the Gauchos held on.

The El Cerrito coach credited Acalanes with a good game afterwards. "They just play with such fire and such intensity. And

Blueprint Photo/Juile Collins

BOYS' BASKETBALL

ed Natomas 76-66 in the first round of NorCal at Natomas on Mar. 9, despite the best efforts of the referees.

The officiating in the first quarter was acceptable, and that is part of the reason the Dons were ahead 29-11 at the end of it. That, and they ran their offense as smooth as could be through Smith, who also had 12 points off of four three-pointers in the first quarter, and 29 points overall. Duffaut led the Dons with 19 points and 13 rebounds.

The refs made so many bad calls in the later parts of the game that it threw Acalanes off of their game. At one point in the second half, one of the refs swore at an Acalanes fan, after the fan had done the same to him. Collins thought the poor officiating "kept the game only ahead by ten, versus being up by twenty."

El Cerrito dealt the Dons their first loss in 25 games in the NCS championship 71-59 on Mar. 6 at Berkeley High.

The Dons were ahead at the end of the first quarter 16-14, but they would never see the lead again. In the third quarter, El Cerri-

to did not allow Acalanes a single field goal, and allowed only six free throws, while they scored 21 points to make it 51-32. In the fourth, the Dons tried to close the gap, but did not have enough time or size to do so.

"The third quarter killed us," said Coach Rob Collins. "You gotta play intense." Another key factor in the Dons' loss was El Cerrito's height advantage. They have a 6'10 center, Andrew Gooden, who scored 16 points in the game and will be going to Kansas next year on a scholarship. The Dons tried to stop him, but could not.

The Dons defeated the Piner Prospectors 68-51 at Piner on Mar. 5 to advance to the NCS championships. Duffaut led the Dons with 24 points, 12 rebounds, along with Roger Curtis who had 22 points. Curtis start-

ed the game in place of the injured Gingery. "I didn't want it to be the last game for all the seniors. I had to step it up for the team and do

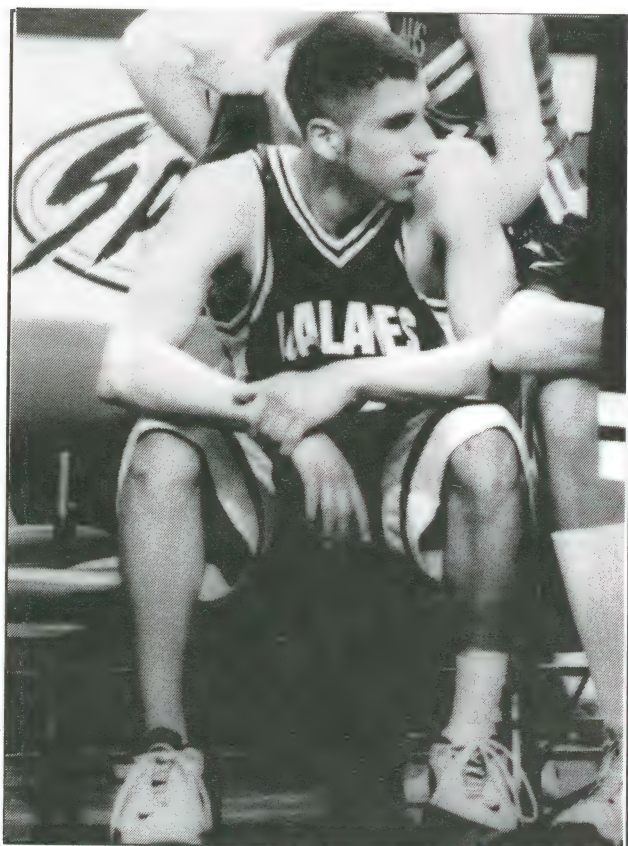
whatever I had to." Senior Erik Ramp was the unsung hero of the game. He played smart, always trying to penetrate and create, but also realizing that if there was nothing there that he needed to pass it off.

In the first round of NCS, Acalanes defeated Del Norte 67-58 at home on Mar. 3. The Dons had started off a little shaky in the first half, mainly because of poor shot selection, but came back with a better game plan in the second half.

Collins thought the way they played was expected. "It's a typical first round North Coast game. This is a



Senior Erik Ramp stares down the approaching rim and releases the ball with perfect timing.



Senior C.J. Duffaut somberly watches his team lose control of the NorCal title game at Arco Arena in Sacramento.

veteran team, and in the second half, we just get it done." Gingery had injured his left ankle in the final minutes of the Del Norte game. He had torn some ligaments when he came down on his ankle and it rolled under his weight. The Dons finished their league play with victories over Mount Diablo by a score of 96-67 on Feb. 25, and over Miramonte in the TCAL finals 84-67 on Feb. 26. Gingery scored a combined 62 of those points.

Miramonte coach Tom Blackwood commended Acalanes depth. "You try to guard one or two players and somebody else hurts you."

The Acalanes Boys' Varsity Basketball Team and their coaches thank the Varsity Cheerleaders, band members, student body, parents and friends for their support throughout their exciting season. We couldn't have done it without.

LACROSSE

Gamecocks Show Up Bishop O'Dowd

By Marimikel Charrier
Staff Writer

Blueprint Photos/Cathy McPhee

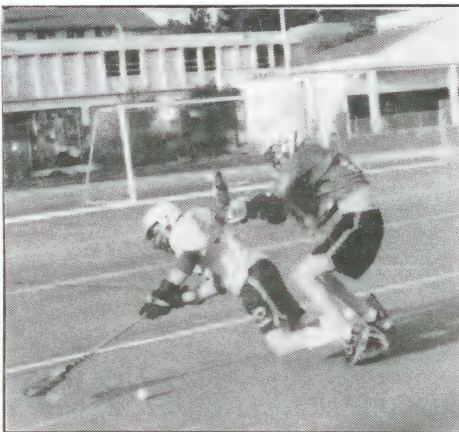


Three words boomed out of the huddle of the Acalanes District Boys Lacrosse team, "Down their Throats! With that rallying cry in mind, Acalanes proceeded to play a very physical game with Oakland's Bishop O'Dowd on March 10 at Campolindo. Starting out spread seemingly haphazard across the field, two players wrestled for the ball and O'Dowd came up with it. Circling outside Acalanes goal area, O'Dowd took their time before engaging Acalanes defense. Before they had a chance to score, Acalanes stole the ball but it was soon awarded back to O'Dowd do to an illegal substitution on Acalanes. Two more penalties for interference and offsides later, O'Dowd scored.

Through a field of body checks and swinging sticks, the first attempted shot for Acalanes was made by Tom Brown but otherwise, Acalanes was on defense. O'Dowd scored their second goal when Nate VieraDucey snagged a loose ball from the ground and took it on a breakaway. He sailed it to a man on the inside, who immediately turned and scored O'Dowd brought the score to 3-0 when Billy Dorshkin made a quick pass to Nate VieraDucey who nailed from a yard off. Both players were close to the net but Dorshkin was unable to get around on the shot.

The game continued at a lightning quick pace and the two referees were forced to race to keep up with the quick scored and numerous fouls. Acalanes was not able to generate much offense early in the match but Miramonte sophomore goalie Josh Hunsucker played a strong game around the net. Acalanes senior midfielder Rob Meimbress brought Acalanes back into the game with 2 consecutive shots that tore the net off. The second quarter started off strong for

Acalanes when Tyson Poor scored early, evening it up. But O'Dowd dived back into the match encircling Acalanes net, passing back and forth while setting up for their next shot. Rushing in all at once, O'Dowd



snagged a 4-3 lead. Meinbress on a breakaway scored from a fair distance out and was body checked by two men seconds later. Acalanes was no longer going to play in their territory.

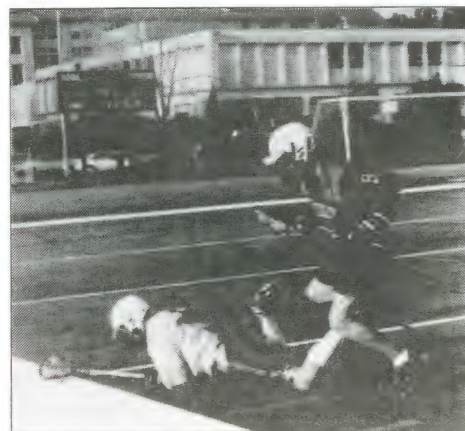
Playing catch-up in the first half, Acalanes came back on the field with determination but O'Dowd was not prepared to give up their offensive stance. O'Dowd's Nate VieraDucey took the first goal. On a fast break, Acalanes senior Julian Hanna brought Acalanes into scoring position where Tyson Poor took the initiative and sent it home.

Soon after, Meimbress scored on a

breakaway and was tackled by two men but the goal was revoked because Meimbress's foot was over the goal line when he shot. Julian Hanna made up for that loss with a searing shot from a distance. O'Dowd picked up a few turnovers and almost scored but goalie Hunsucker remained an impenetrable wall for Acalanes. O'Dowd brought the board to 6-5, Acalanes favor. Acalanes was not going to let up with a one point lead. Poor was in the perfect spot behind O'Dowd's goal and caught a shot the went over the net. He immediately sailed it back over the

Miramonte's Chris Hudson, placing him in scoring position. The score rose to 7-6. Acalanes Magnus DuBorg scored the next point for the team. With about five minutes remaining, the fans went wild with excitement for the close game. O'Dowd increased the anxiety for Acalanes and hope for O'Dowd fans by scoring with two minutes to go. Bishop kept the pressure on but couldn't even up the 7-8 score before the whistle blew.

With victory shoeing on his face, first year Acalanes head coach Mark Reardin said the boy's "played with a lot of heart" and "never gave up." In the end, he said it came down to "ground balls and guts." Opposing coach Wayne Shaffer thought Acalanes "played hard" and were "well coached." As for his team, he said "it's tough to go away and lose."



BASEBALL

Dons Baseball Comes Out Swinging

By Reed Miller

Staff Writer

The Dons (4-2) battled back for a come from behind 8-6 win over Encinal at home on Mar. 16, largely because of good team play. Acalanes trailed 4-0 in the first inning, but soon battled back. Several base hits in a row led the Dons to having the bases loaded with senior EJ Verceles at the plate. Verceles hit a three run single to bring the Dons back within one.

The Dons kept fighting back throughout the game. In the bottom of the fifth with the game tied 6-6, they made their move with the bases loaded and one out. A single and a sacrifice fly brought in the winning runs for the Dons.

Pitcher Andy Kolar came into the game for Jim Woods. He pitched a solid three innings in which he made the hitters chase after pitches, and he allowed only three runs. "We're a fast team and we can score some runs," said Coach Dave Borghi on the style of this year's team. "We're just having trouble getting people out." Instead of holding opposing teams to lower scores, Borghi said they will "outscore teams with the guys we have."

This year's team is composed mostly of juniors, with only four seniors: Verceles, Pat Cochrane, Woods, and Derek Clay. The team lost six seniors from last year's NCS championship team. Because they are so young, they must not depend solely on the seniors. In their first six games, juniors Art Csider, John Derne, and Jeff Smith are all hitting over .400. According to Verceles, one of the key areas the Dons have lost players in is pitching. Both of the starting pitchers on last year's team were seniors.

The past two years, Acalanes has won the North Coast Section title. Borghi does not think that is as likely this year. "I don't know if that's realistic this year. We'll just see what happens. We're just going to try to compete and make the playoffs in our league first." The toughest teams they will have to face in league this year are going to be Alhambra and Miramonte.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Junior pitcher Andy Kolar is beat out by the throw to first in a preseason match-up against Encinal. The Dons triumphed, beating Encinal 8-6.

VOLLEYBALL

Dons Decimate Dublin

By Hiro Kagiya

Staff Writer

The Dons came out in spades against the Dublin team on Friday winning a close match putting their record at 8-2 in league play thus far.

In the first game against Dublin the Dons were able to come from behind and win 15-9. At one point the Dons trailed 5-9 but were able to rally back with the help of Darryl Wong who served four points tying the teams at 9-9. And after a kill by Josh Edlinger, who had 14 kills that night, the Dons had a sideout and Nick Russell served four points giving the Dons the lead. And after a missed serve by Dublin, sophomore Bill Kalio, with 13 kills and 12 service points that night, served to win the game for the Dons.

In the second game Acalanes won 17-15 keeping the spectators on the edge of their seats the whole time. The match looked in

Dublin's favor until Mason Wodhams floated five serves in giving the Dons a temporary lead but Dublin fought back and the game was 15-14 in Dublin's favor. Even with defeat so close the Dons came back after a time out and set the court afire with a kill by Edlinger and two kills by Arturo Mancia, who had 8 kills that match, burning Dublin into submission.

In the third game the Dons were phased by their last two wins and let down their guard allowing the Dublin team to win a painful 15-13 victory. But in the last game of the match the Dons were out for blood slamming the life and will out of the Dublin team. The blitz-krieg was led by the team's ace in the hole, Russell, who hammered the Dublin team with 8 serves in a row and 18 kills throughout the night. After the smoke cleared the Dons left the battlefield victorious acquiring a much deserved 15-5 win.

TRACK

Dons Tennis Out-Muscles Benicia Panthers

By Hiro Kagiya

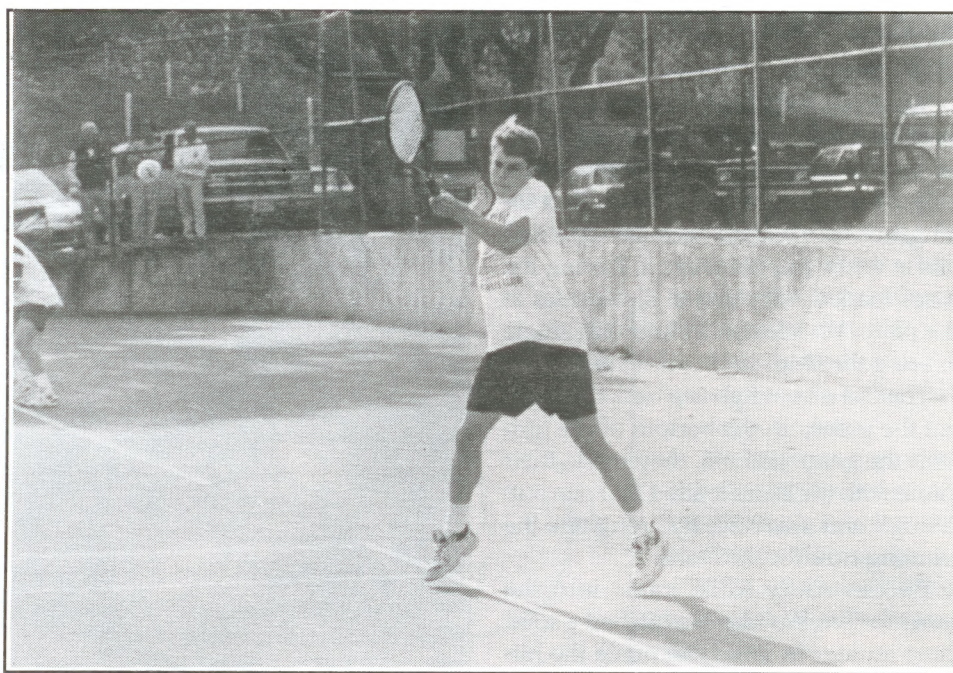
Staff Writer

The Dons hit off the new tennis season with a decisive win against Benica and a close loss to the defending champions Campolindo putting the Dons at 1-1 in league play.

In the game against Benicia the Dons out hit, out volleyed and out served Benicia forcing them to knuckle under and accept a 7-2 loss. Both number one and number two varsity players fell victim to Benica's with sophomore Dylan Tubelle losing 2-6, 1-6 and number two, freshman Matt Baca, losing a close match ending in a tie-breaker 3-6, 6-7. Number three Scott Makenzie [6-3, 6-0], number four Andy Byrne [6-1, 7-5], number five Phil Talatalla [6-0, 6-2] and number six Alex Gallo [7-6, 6-0] carved up everything that Benica had to dish out leading the team to attain victory for the Dons.

Then the Dons faced their arch-nemesis Campolindo losing a marathon of a match 7-2. The number one seeded varsity player for the Dons, sophomore Dylan Tubelle, slashed Campo's number one player Darrin Colen winning 2-6, 6-2, 7-5. Number four-seeded varsity player Andy Byrne stopped Campo's Mike Woo dead in his tracks and won two straight games 6-3, 6-1. Freshman Scott Makenzie fought hard against Trevor Rogers but was unable to attain victory losing 6-4, 6-5.

After the loss against Campolindo tennis coach Tony Hening said, "Campo is probably the hardest team we will face this season and even though we lost we had the potential to win with wins at one and three and two tie breakers." He also expressed his feelings on the lack of school support for the tennis team and said, "We have a great team and I would love to see more school support from both parents and students throughout the season."



Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

Sophomore Dylan Tubelle hits a nice forehand from the baseline in a recent boys tennis practice. Tubelle is one of several young leaders on this year's team.

By Marimikel Charrier

Staff Writer

The Acalanes track and field team jumped into the season with their first meet against Northgate on March 9 at Acalanes. Although Northgate "haven't been working out regularly" said their Coach Mike Hallick, he was "pleasantly happy" with their performance. Hallick is a former Acalanes coach and student (graduated 1964). He competed at Harvard and this is his second year at Northgate. Northgate has a very young team and Hallick wasn't expecting too much of them and was glad they seemed to have fun at Acalanes. In the meantime, Acalanes coach Manny Meyers was preparing his team to sprint into the season with fury. Though this was a practice meet and was not scored, Meyers was expecting full participation.

Acalanes preformed extremely well in the discus and shotput. Junior Corey Hardin took first in both events. He was almost 15 feet over his closest competitor in shot, throwing 48ft. 1 1/2in. In discus, he was eight feet over the second place holder, throwing 115ft. 3in where 85 was the

average throw for the day. Acalanes throwers junior Jonathon Hill (106ft. 7in.) and junior James Applebury (99ft. 9in.) took second and third in discus. The coach for these events is Bob Warren. Hardin enthusiastically and truthfully, judging by Acalanes ranking, described Warren as "a good coach."

The Acalanes girls pulled an extremely good race in the 800 meters. Junior Mary Thomas, and junior Shelley Matsutani took the top two spots with 2:38 and 2:39, respectively. Junior Erin Riordan tied for third with Northgate's Attard with 2:42. A heated and close battle ensued in the boy's 100 meter hurdles. Two Northgate athletes Touvan Sughiarto and Shan Gee tied for first with 17.5. Acalanes senior Mark Philpot was a split second behind with 17.6.

The boy's 200 meter was heart stopping close race and fueled loud encouragement from both teams. Acalanes junior Ali Al-Mufti dove in first setting a 24.1 with Northgate's Nelson 0.1 seconds behind. Senior Ed Ayers followed on their heels with 24.4 and Northgate's Rittenburg snagged 4th with 24.6.

SOFTBALL

Brueckner Brings Experience To Softball Team

By Myles Rush
Staff Writer

The Acalanes softball team is in transtion this season with many new players, a new coach, and a new attitude, and they're looking good in preseason play.

New coach Bob Brueckner is in his first year coaching the Acalanes softball squad, but he has many years of experience. He has coached a fourteen and under team, and he coached softball at UC Santa Barbara. He played baseball at UC Berkeley, and has assisted on many teams. Brueckner wants to coach on the high school level or higher because the players already have the abilities and skills to play the game. Dr. Bill Olson is the assistant coach on the team, and he works with the pitchers and catchers on the team. The other assistant coach is Phil Conners who has approximately seventeen years of high school coaching under his belt. Conners advises the head coach and works with the pitchers, and also recruits young budding talent.

When asked how she liked new coach Brueckner, sophomore Jamie Fassio said, "he's great, he's very different from last years coach. He's like the difference between night and day. Last years coach was really loud, and this year Bob is quit and he's really a good coach."

When asked how he liked the job so far Brueckner says it is a very challenging job. He has to work with the school, parents, the boosters club, and try to get the team name out into the community to try for some financial support.

"There's a lot of kids on this team, and there fun to work with, and they show a lot of energy. Our key is numbers, and getting people healthy to play," said Brueckner.

The team is working hard, and ended up with a 3-3 preseason record. The team beat Mission San Jose, which is a highly ranked team, in their first



Senior catcher Kim Carter throws a practice pitch back. Carter is known for her strong arm.

game of the season 3-2. They beat Saint Joeseeph's, away, and made another amazing comeback to win 4-3. And the feel good win so far this year was against rival school Campolindo in their third win 10-0. Campolindo had beaten Acalanes last year both times they played.

"It's always fun to beat Campo 10-0," said Brueckner.

They only have one healthy pitcher, as senior pitcher Melanie Olson is injured due to a shoulder and back problem. There are also players out with the flu. We "are short on numbers, we're big on spirit," said Brueckner. Despite low numbers, they're off to a big start. People are interested in playing, but they do have some rebuilding to do. It is a young team, and they only have five seniors, four juniors, and two sophomores on the roster.

"Despite low numbers, we've got some really good players. We could use more varsity players," said Brueckner.

AquaDons Drown Matadors

Miramonte, usually a big rival for the Acalanes swim and dive team, lost at the first official swim meet at Acalanes on March 17. The girls score was 115 to 72, and the boys 104 to 69. The girls won all three of their relays and the boys won two out of the three relays. For diving, Julie Cellini and Chris Kinney took first. "Both coaches were very happy with our performance today, at this point in the season," stated coach Jeff Miller.

-Marimikel Charrier

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

ED AYERS

In only his second year of track and field at Acalanes, after just three preseason meets, senior sprinter Ed Ayers is running down his times in the 100, 200, and 400 meters. Ayers earned himself a spot on this year's 4 x 400 and 4 x 100 meter relays, and is now an integral part of these events. Ayers and the other sprinters have their sites on North Coast. For his performance to date in sprinting, Ayers earns this issue's Male Athlete of the Issue.

KIM CARTER

She is the team leader behind the plate. Batting clean-up spot (4th), senior Kim Carter is batting .294 so far this year for the Acalanes softball team. Her coach, Bob Brueckner, says this average will probably go up. "She knows the game well. She is a good team leader," he says. For her leadership, "helpful experience", and performance to date, Carter is this issue's Female Athlete of the Issue.



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker